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1956 and 1957

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Report for the years
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PART I

General Review

Royal Visit

AN outstanding event was the visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in Her Majesty's Yacht *Britannia* on 22nd January, 1957. A full programme went through without a hitch, and the day was a memorable one in the life of the Island.

Administrative Affairs

The Governor, Sir James Harford, K.B.E., C.M.G., left the Colony on 1st January, 1958. The appointment of Mr. Robert Alford, C.M.G., as Governor was announced in July, 1957.

Revised constitutional arrangements for the Colony came into effect on 1st June, 1956. Three unofficial members were added to the former four official members of the Executive Council, while the number of members of the Advisory Council was increased from six to ten, and provision made for the first time for representation of the five districts into which the Island is divided. The arrangements have worked admirably, and secure for the Governor closer counsel and wider contact in the unofficial sphere.

A small Social Welfare Department was instituted with the appointment of a Social Welfare Officer in November, 1956.

The decennial census of the inhabitants of the Colony was taken on 21st October, 1956. The population of St. Helena was registered as 4,642—a decrease of 106 on the 1946 figure. The total was affected by the temporary absence of 181 men in Ascension on a defence project.

Economic Affairs

For the greater part of the two years employment was at a good level. Unfortunately the special reasons for this were temporary only. The period closed with the prospect of an early cessation of employment on a large scale on the defence project in Ascension, and in November, 1957, Messrs. Ovenstone found it necessary to close down their fishing and canning enterprise. Emigration to the United Kingdom, in particular of girls and young women for domestic service, took place throughout the period.

The tourist industries were maintained briskly. The resumption by the Union Castle Line of the call by passenger ships monthly each way—instead of alternating with cargo vessels—was greatly welcomed. Two Farrell Lines ships called regularly at six weeks intervals on the journey from New York to Cape Town.

In the sphere of agriculture, the work of land reclamation and rehabilitation continued, while efforts to re-establish a coffee industry on a large scale made some headway. A government entomologist on a two-year engagement arrived in the Colony in September, 1957, to study the numerous insect pests in St. Helena which damage crops and forest trees.

The Colony continued to benefit greatly from grants made by Her Majesty's Government under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts; particulars of these will be found in Appendix I. As the next feature of an important building programme financed from this source, a fine new General Hospital was opened in Jamestown on 10th June, 1956. A new Parish Home of most pleasing design was opened on 21st October, 1956. Additions and improvements were made to the Nurses' Home in Jamestown. The new Longwood Senior School, a fine building on a magnificent site, was opened on 28th December, 1957 with the name of "The Harford Senior School". The first Social Centres were constructed, by adaptation of existing buildings, in Longwood and St. Paul's. A further housing scheme, covering subsidies for the building of new houses or extensions to existing houses by individuals, further Government house construction, and loans for repairs to houses, came into effect late in 1956.

General

Other Departmental activities of note included successful continuation of the youth training scheme in agriculture and forestry; the vaccination against poliomyelitis of children up to the age of 12; the continuance of the campaign against round-worm in the Longwood area; progress in the field of nutrition; arrangements for the enrichment of the Island's supply of flour by the introduction of vitamins of the "B" complex and additives of calcium and iron; the universal distribution of free milk and fish-liver-oil capsules to all children and to pregnant and nursing mothers; progressive expansion of the school dental service and of the work of the new physiotherapy branch of the hospital; the return of the first fully trained St. Helenian teacher from the United Kingdom; renewed attention to local training of pupil teachers.

A fully equipped children's playground was opened in Jamestown by the Duke of Edinburgh during his visit. A radiotelephone link with the United Kingdom and Europe through Ascension was made available by Cable and Wireless Limited in October, 1957.

Visitors

H.M.S. *Pelican* visited St. Helena in March, 1956, and again in January, 1957. H.M.S. *Loch Insh* also called in January, 1957. The French Naval ships *La Gazelle* and *La Charente* called in March, 1957, and H.M.S. *Lynx* with the Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic Station (Admiral Sir Geoffrey Robson, K.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C.) accompanied by H.M.S. *Mount's Bay* in October, 1957.

Mr. G. V. Jinks, WHO Environmental Sanitation Technician, visited St. Helena in August, 1956. Mr. M. A. Willis, M.B.E., of the Colonial Office visited the Island in the party on board the *Britannia* on 22nd January, 1957, and stayed on until 9th February.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE island population is of mixed origin, being descended from settlers from Great Britain under the East India Company and employees or slaves from Africa and Asia. The language of the island has always been English, and the English way of life is firmly established.

The last census was taken on 21st October, 1956, when the population was 4,642. Of these, 4,535 were born in St. Helena. The total included 2,224 males and 2,418 females, and almost exactly one-third lived in and around Jamestown.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1957, was 4,682.

<i>Vital Statistics</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>
Births	127	120
Deaths	43	55
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	15.7	41.7
Still Births	3	—
Illegitimate Births	38	33
Deaths of Infants under 1 year old	2	5
Birth Rate per 1,000	26.6	25.8
Death Rate per 1,000	9.0	11.8
Immigrants	209	424
Emigrants	518	468

A table of the population from 1902 to 1957 is given at Appendix II.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

Employment

The principal categories of wage earners as recorded in the 1946 census, with comparative estimates at the end of 1957, were as follows:

	<i>1946</i>	<i>1957</i>
Flax industrial workers	205	215
Agricultural labourers	165	200
Skilled and general labourers	350	380
Building tradesmen and apprentices	85	52
Fishermen and boatmen	50	40
Mechanics, engine and motor drivers	70	70

One flax mill was closed early in 1957, and a fish-canning factory which was opened in December, 1956, was closed in 1957. The latter factory at one time had almost 80 employees.

The census of population taken in October, 1956, provided the following details in respect of occupational status:

Category	Males	Females	Total
Professional, technical and related workers	44	66	110
Managerial, Administrative, and Clerical workers	69	17	86
Sales workers	26	53	79
Farmers, Fishermen, etc.	177	3	180
Workers in operating transport and communications operations	70	3	73
Craftsmen, production process workers, etc.	327	161	488
Service workers	49	106	155
Security Forces	10	1	11
Not Classified	280	7	287
GRAND TOTAL	1,052	417	1,469

Of the men in the category described as "Not Classified" 130 were in receipt of unemployment relief pay.

Unemployment

In January, 1956, 226 men were in receipt of unemployment relief pay, but many of these were able to find employment of a temporary nature in Ascension in connection with the United States guided missile project. When the census was taken in October, 1956 it was found that of the men temporarily employed at Ascension 105 had previously been employed on relief work. At the end of December, 1956, 131 were still in receipt of unemployment relief pay, and it is estimated that this was an average figure throughout 1957. At the end of 1957, 141 men were registered as unemployed and in receipt of a relief allowance. Some of these were men who had earlier in the year been employed in Ascension. Unemployment relief pay is granted on a sliding scale according to the number of recipient's dependants, ranging from £1 0s. 10d. a week to £1 7s. 1d. a week. Men in receipt of a relief allowance work from 7.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m.

Wages and Conditions of Employment

A comparative table of weekly wage rates in 1951, 1955 and 1957 is given below:

	1951 Male s. d.	1955 Male s. d.	1957 Male s. d.
Flax mill operatives	33 6	33 6	33 6
Agricultural labourers:			
Government	30 6	45 0	45 0
Commercial	27 6	33 6	33 6
General Labourers:			
Government	30 6	45 0	45 0
Commercial	30 0	33 6	33 6
Skilled labour employed by Government:			
Carpenters, Masons, Plumbers, Wood	32 0	46 6	46 6
Machinists	38 0	53 6	55 6

The weekly wage rates for female employees from 1951 to 1957 remained almost constant, varying between 29s. and 30s.

Government employees work an average of 45 hours a week; commercial employees work an average of 50 hours a week. Flax-mill workers receive overtime rates of 8d. an hour. Overtime is sporadic varying according to demand. The largest flax mills work an average of 8 hours overtime a week during the busy season. Building and construction workers receive overtime rates of 1s. an hour; the amount of overtime permitted varies considerably according to the supply of materials and the weather.

Flax workers are usually employed between 7.0 a.m. and 5.0 p.m. and work a five-and-a-half-day week. No paid holidays are granted, but one of the flax milling firms grants a bonus to wage earners in the form of an extra week's pay at Christmas.

The following particulars relate to labour employed by the Public Works Department in which 192 men were employed at the end of 1957. Their occupations and wages were as follows:

No.	Occupation	Remarks	Weekly Wages
58	Artisans	Building and mechanical tradesmen	46s. 6d. to 55s. 6d.
11	Transport Drivers	Cars, lorries, road rollers, etc.	48s. 0d. to 51s. 6d.
99	Labourers	General	45s. 0d.
14	Apprentices	All trades, 3 years	23s. 0d. to 29s. 0d.
3	Improvers	—	37s. 0d.
7	Charge Hands	—	50s. 6d. to 54s. 6d.

The Department works nine hours a day, Monday to Friday, i.e. 45 hours a week, but plumbers and watermen spread their hours over six days and are on call in emergency on Sundays.

COST OF LIVING

The cost-of-living index in 1957 showed an increase of 124 points over the index for the year 1939.

The following table shows the changes in the index over recent years:

1939	1950	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
100	190	232	220	216	212	214	224

The increase in 1957 mainly arose through a rise in the price of wood fuel from 50s. to 60s. a ton (increase 9 points).

The average retail prices of the main commodities were:

				1956		1957	
				June	December	June	December
				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sugar	.	.	lb.	7	7	8	8
Rice	.	.	lb.	11½	11½	10½	10½
*Flour	.	.	lb.	4½	4½	4½	4½
Lard	.	.	lb.	1 10	1 10	1 10	1 10
Margarine	.	.	lb.	1 8	1 8	1 4	1 4
*Bread	.	1½-lb. loaf		6	6	6	6

* These items continued to be subsidised by Government.

		1956		1957	
		June	December	June	December
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Milk, Tinned	tin	1 6	1 6	1 5	1 4
Milk, Fresh	pint	6	8	8	9
Jam, Loose	lb.	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0
Jam, Tinned	lb.	1 8	1 6	1 2	1 2
Tea	lb.	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0
Butter	lb.	4 6	4 4	4 0	4 0
Eggs	each	3½	3½	3½	3½
Fish	lb.	6	6	6	6
Meat	lb.	1 6	1 6	1 6	1 6
Soap, Common	2 lb.	2 4	2 4	2 4	2 4
Fuel	ton	50 0	50 0	60 0	60 0

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The principal laws in force for the protection of workers are:

The Factories Ordinance, Cap. 35.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, Cap. 132.

The Contracts of Service Ordinance, No. 3 of 1951.

LABOUR RELATIONS

Since November, 1956, the duties of Labour Inspector have been carried out by the Social Welfare Officer in co-operation with the Factories Inspector. The latter is concerned with the provisions of the Factories Ordinance and the former with general labour conditions. Each undertaking is formally inspected not less than once a quarter. Relations between employer and employee are regulated, and disputes settled, in consultation with the Government.

MIGRATION OF LABOUR

There is a regular emigration of St. Helenians to the United Kingdom. The majority go as domestic servants under contract for two years. In 1956 and 1957, 166 persons emigrated in this way to Britain.

Since 1945 it is estimated that nearly 700 persons have emigrated under contract overseas, of whom several hundred went to South Africa. It is now difficult for St. Helenians to enter South Africa. Most of those who have gone to the United Kingdom have settled there and made good.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

THE Colony relies on a substantial grant-in-aid to balance its budget and on grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts to finance development expenditure.

There is no public debt.

The principal heads of revenue were as follows:

	1954	1955	1956	1957
	£	£	£	£
Customs	25,694	22,574	26,374	19,190
Port and Marine	2,352	2,191	2,956	2,173
Licences, Taxes, etc.	2,688	4,362	4,151	4,314
Court Fees, etc.	6,749	5,391	5,137	5,552
Post Office	7,017*	4,536	17,962*	4,293
Rentals, etc.	2,424	2,337	3,690	4,202
Interest	1,600	427	803	1,110
Miscellaneous	2,986	2,433	4,215	3,050
Ascension	10,979*	6,122	19,437*	23,031*
Revenue from Foodstocks Revolving Fund	5,000	4,063	4,123	4,658
TOTAL	67,489	54,436	88,848	71,573
Grant-in-Aid	80,000	74,300	58,900	62,500
TOTAL	147,489	128,736	147,748	134,073
Colonial Development and Welfare	33,397	33,892	35,274	33,796
GRAND TOTAL	180,886	162,628	183,022	167,869

* Increased owing to the sale of new definitive issues of St. Helena (1953-54) and Ascension (1956-57) stamps and of special stamp issues (Coronation (1953-54) and St. Helena Postal Centenary (1956)).

The principal heads of expenditure were as follows:

	1954	1955	1956	1957
	£	£	£	£
Governor	3,293	3,002	3,406	3,288
Agriculture and Forestry	11,698	12,926	11,907	11,863
Ascension	8,062	6,714	10,380	9,753
Audit	1,754	1,708	1,222	1,248
Education	13,858	13,868	14,451	13,948
Miscellaneous Services	31,059	21,442	23,233	25,925
Pensions	3,549	3,460	4,394	3,615
Police and Gaol	3,347	3,504	3,588	3,393
Poor Relief	10,487	14,790	12,321	8,558
Post Office	1,947	2,601	1,972	2,048
Public Health	13,850	14,928	14,783	15,886
Public Works Department	14,597	14,534	14,938	13,956
Public Works Recurrent	9,892	10,535	10,652	10,304
Secretariat and Printing Office	4,899	5,133	9,109	6,552
Treasury, Customs, etc.	4,733	4,804	4,241	4,236
TOTAL RECURRENT	137,025	133,949	140,597	134,573
Public Works Non-Recurrent Development and Welfare:	1,563	618	803	2,829
(a) Local Funds	—	—	—	402
(b) Colonial Development and Welfare	34,788	35,669	32,345	34,786
GRAND TOTAL	173,376	170,236	173,745	172,590

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December, 1957

<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Assets</i>	<i>£</i>
Deposits	123,707	Cash held locally and by	
Foodstocks Revolving Fund	24,640	Crown Agents	15,644
Bills of Exchange	2,478	Surplus funds invested	48,000
Excess of Assets over		Investment of Deposits	89,734
Liabilities	8,820	Advances	6,267
	<u>159,645</u>		<u>159,645</u>

	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Due under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	1,278	18	2
Contingent liability to Government Savings Bank	14,748	1	7
General Revenue Balance:			
Surplus at 1st January, 1957	13,541	0	0
Deduct deficit 1957	4,721	7	3
Surplus at 31st December, 1957	<u>£8,819</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>

TAXATION

The principal sources of taxation and the yield from each during 1956 and 1957 were as follows:

	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Customs:		
Import Duties	24,125	19,190
Export Duties	2,249	—
Port and Marine:		
Wharfage	2,170	1,596
Shipping Dues	361	303
Craneage	198	130
Licences, Taxes, etc.:		
Boats	80	81
Cinema	55	25
Dogs and Horses	199	212
Fishing	50	50
Road Vehicles	483	506
Shops, Butchers, etc.	151	148
Game and Firearms	81	81
Import Tax	799	690
Income Tax	1,010	952
Estate and Succession Duties	878	1,224
Entertainment Tax	147	107
Water Rates	130	138

Customs Duties

The main features of the Customs Tariff as at 31st December, 1957, are shown in Appendix III.

Death Duties

Duties are payable on all real and personal property which passes on the death of a person and are governed by the Estate and Succession Duties Ordinance. The duties are divided into—

- (a) Estate duty, which is a charge on the body of the estate, on a scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent over £250 and not exceeding £500, 1 per cent to £1,000, 2 per cent to £2,000, 4, 6 and 8 per cent to £3,000, £5,000 and £7,000 respectively, and scaling up to 25 per cent on estates over £60,000. No duty is payable on estates not exceeding £250.
- (b) Succession duty, which is imposed in addition to the estate duty and is collected at rates varying with the relationship of the successor. The scale commences with succession value over £250 and not exceeding £500, the rates in the three classes concerned being $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for a husband, lineal descendant or ancestor of the deceased, 2 per cent for a brother or sister or their descendants, and 4 per cent in the case of any lesser degree of relationship. The rates increase to 1, 4 and 8 per cent on a succession value not exceeding £1,000, to 2, 10 and 20 per cent up to £10,000 and thereafter scale up to 4, 15 and 25 per cent on a value in excess of £30,000. No duty is payable on a value not exceeding £250.

Provision is also made for the transfer to Government of real property in lieu of cash where duties are payable in respect of such property.

Stamp Duties

These are charges levied on all classes of instruments scheduled in the Stamp Duties Ordinance, and are collected by means of postage stamps. Some of the principal duties are:

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Affidavits, Declarations, etc.	5	0
Contracts or agreements under £10	2	6
Contracts or agreements over £10	5	0
Arbitration awards under £50	5	0
Arbitration awards over £50	10	0
Authentication certificate	20	0
Mortgage bonds per £100 up to £500	2	0
Mortgage bonds per £100 up to £1,000	3	0
Mortgage bonds per £100 up to £2,000	5	0
Mortgage bonds per £100 exceeding £2,000	10	0
Leases according to tenure and rental	from	
	1	0 to £2
Notarial act or instrument	5	0
Power of Attorney—special power	2	0
Power of Attorney—general power	10	0
Deed of transfer of immovable property for every £10	1	0

Entertainment Tax

There is a tax under the Entertainment Tax (Consolidation) Ordinance on every ticket sold for any public entertainment, on a scale of 1*d.* on a ticket not exceeding 1*s.*, 2*d.* on a ticket exceeding 1*s.* but not exceeding 2*s.*, and 3*d.* on a ticket costing more than 2*s.*

Import Tax

This was imposed by the Import Tax Ordinance at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent *ad valorem* on goods imported into St. Helena.

Income Tax

Income tax became payable with effect from 1st January, 1954, in accordance with the Income Tax Ordinance, 1953. The tax, which is levied on incomes from local sources only, is at the rate of 9*d.* in the £. There is a personal allowance of £300 and an abatement of one-third of the tax for married persons. Company tax is payable at 1*s.* 6*d.* in the £. A tabular statement showing the incidence of the tax on individuals is given in Appendix IV.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, was revoked by Proclamation during 1949 and replaced by the Currency, Coinage and Legal Tender Ordinance, which provides *inter alia* that the Colony's currency should be Bank of England notes and United Kingdom coins.

The estimated amount of currency in circulation at the end of 1957 was £40,000. This includes South African currency which is in general use alongside the statutory currency.

There are no commercial banks but there is a Government Savings Bank in which the amount deposited at the end of 1956 totalled £102,414, the number of depositors being 772.

The Government charges 1 per cent on outward mail transfers and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent on outward telegraphic remittances plus the cost of the telegram. Inward remittances are not charged for.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE total imports (excluding bullion and specie) were valued at £206,792 in 1956, and £201,086 in 1957. The total exports were valued at £64,147 in 1956, and £69,825 in 1957.

IMPORTS

The following table shows the principal heads and respective values of imports for the two years under review and the two previous years:

	1954	1955	1956	1957
	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco . . .	98,072	100,514	113,570	87,599
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured . . .	6,093	4,655	1,822	4,110
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured . . .	110,561	101,042	91,330	109,365
Miscellaneous and unclassified . .	126	340	70	12
	<u>£214,852</u>	<u>£206,551</u>	<u>£206,792</u>	<u>£201,086</u>

The detailed quantities and values of items imported in the two years under review were as follows:

		Quantity		Value	
		1956	1957	1956	1957
				£	£
Ale, Beer and Stout . . .	gal.	12,639	9,462	5,215	3,694
Biscuits . . .	cwt.	155	169	1,588	1,918
Butter . . .	cwt.	169	150	3,337	2,599
Cheese . . .	cwt.	183	219	2,732	2,725
Confectionery . . .	cwt.	459	389	5,223	4,299
Flour . . .	cwt.	10,023	7,500	22,372	16,065
Grains and Meal . . .	cwt.	2,217	1,820	3,045	2,593
Jams and Marmalade . . .	cwt.	426	92	1,984	502
Lard and Substitutes . . .	cwt.	805	425	6,559	3,446
Margarine . . .	cwt.	1,132	775	8,797	6,344
Meats (canned) . . .	cwt.	190	182	2,960	2,998
Meats (salted) . . .	cwt.	259	115	4,487	1,486
Milk and Milk Powder . . .	cwt.	945	870	5,623	4,375
Rice . . .	cwt.	2,000	1,870	6,447	5,681
Sugar . . .	cwt.	3,593	3,193	7,391	7,744
Spirits and Liqueurs . . .	gal.	1,094	829	1,726	1,237
Tea . . .	cwt.	194	107	4,505	2,672
Tobacco and Cigarettes . . .	lb.	9,196	7,737	5,134	4,396
Cotton Piece Goods . . .	sq. yd.	10,727	14,929	1,328	1,909
Rayon Piece Goods . . .	sq. yd.	6,558	8,352	865	1,122
Mineral Oils and Motor Spirits . .	gal.	164,417	78,783	15,250	8,743
Motor Vehicles . . .		9	20	3,699	8,259
Machinery and Parts . . .	—	—	—	12,857	4,267
Timber . . .	tons	19	56	646	2,558
Cement . . .	tons	452	253	3,373	1,926
Coal . . .	tons	204	381	1,176	1,552
				<u>138,319</u>	<u>105,110</u>
Other Articles . . .				68,473	95,976
				<u>£206,792</u>	<u>£201,086</u>

The sources of imports were as follows:

	1954 £	Per cent	1955 £	Per cent	1956 £	Per cent	1957 £	Per cent
United Kingdom .	120,011	55·9	108,366	52·5	91,190	44·1	109,315	54·4
South Africa .	38,166	17·8	41,004	19·9	47,663	23·0	37,601	18·7
Australia .	987	0·5	463	0·2	542	0·3	363	0·2
New Zealand .	4,423	2·1	5,896	2·9	5,414	2·6	4,116	2·0
Canada .	—	—	—	—	22,373	10·8	11,894	5·9
Rest of Common- wealth .	29,724	13·8	27,359	13·2	13,856	6·7	8,880	4·4
	<u>193,311</u>		<u>183,088</u>		<u>181,038</u>		<u>172,169</u>	
Other Countries .	21,541	10·0	23,463	11·4	25,754	12·5	28,917	14·4
	<u>£214,852</u>		<u>£206,551</u>		<u>£206,792</u>		<u>£201,086</u>	

Goods originating in the United Kingdom for the two years under review mainly consisted of:

	1956 £	1957 £
Beer and Stout	5,020	3,694
Biscuits (all kinds)	1,531	1,746
Confectionery	3,402	2,744
Flour	50	4,370
Lard and Substitutes	6,559	3,446
Margarine	8,797	6,344
Milk and Milk Powder	2,222	1,045
Sugar	2,480	100
Spirits and Liqueurs	1,152	909
Tobacco and Cigarettes	4,811	4,306
Cotton Piece Goods	1,303	1,909
Rayon Piece Goods	810	1,101
Motor Vehicles	3,699	8,139
Machinery and Parts	8,905	3,532
Cement	3,346	1,920

Imports from South Africa for the two years under review mainly consisted of:

	1956 £	1957 £
Confectionery	1,821	1,555
Grains and Meal	2,869	2,544
Jams and Marmalade	1,484	360
Canned Meats	1,084	824
Meats, salted, cured, etc.	746	477
Sugar	4,903	7,639
Mineral Oils and Motor Spirits	8,928	5,597
Machinery and Parts	3,952	359
Coal	915	1,530

Imports from other Commonwealth countries for the two years under review were primarily:

	1956	1957
	£	£
Butter (New Zealand)	3,085	2,384
Cheese (New Zealand)	2,307	1,726
Flour (Canada)	22,322	11,695
Tea (India)	2,713	1,882
Mineral Oils, etc. (Aden)	2,640	—
Timber (East Africa)	344	2,185

Goods originating in foreign countries were mainly:

	1956	1957
	£	£
Meats, canned (Denmark)	647	1,031
Meats, salted, cured, etc. (Holland)	1,533	—
Meats, salted, cured, etc. (Denmark)	1,905	626
Milk and Milk Powder (U.S.A.)*	2,805	2,085
Rice (Burma)	5,825	3,920
Mineral Oils, etc. (Persia)	1,992	1,851

* UNICEF supply.

EXPORTS

	1954		1955		1956		1957	
	Tons	£	Tons	£	Tons	£	Tons	£
Hemp	505	32,628	594	38,608	508	31,787	629	33,232
Tow	268	9,466	250	9,185	344	13,670	178	6,975
Rope and Twine	42	4,200	71	6,743	68	6,852	45	4,560
Other Articles	—	621	—	1,641	87	11,838	258	25,058
	<u>46,915</u>		<u>56,177</u>		<u>64,147</u>		<u>69,825</u>	

	1954		1955		1956		1957	
Country of destination	£	Per cent	£	Per cent	£	Per cent	£	Per cent
United Kingdom	45,205	96·4	53,867	95·9	45,875	71·5	45,535	65·2
South Africa	200	0·4	1,640	2·9	10,886	17·0	22,592	32·4
	<u>45,405</u>		<u>55,507</u>		<u>56,761</u>		<u>68,127</u>	
Other Countries	1,510	3·2	670	1·2	7,386	11·5	1,698	2·4
	<u>46,915</u>		<u>56,177</u>		<u>64,147</u>		<u>69,825</u>	

There were no outstanding commercial developments in the period under review. Imports from non-sterling countries continued to be restricted by exchange-control considerations. Import licences also continued to be required for certain foodstuffs.

Imported goods continued to be distributed by a few local firms and by one company registered in the United Kingdom. Retail price control of certain essential commodities continued in force during the two years under review.

The Colony has no Government or Trade Representative abroad.

Chapter 6: Production

LAND UTILISATION AND LAND TENURE

THE area of St. Helena is 47 square miles. Of this it is estimated that 500 acres are arable, 5 square miles are under New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*), seven square miles are pasture and 1,000 acres are under established forest. The remainder, some two-thirds of the total area, consists of waste lands, much of which is capable of being brought back to forest through a process of assisted natural regeneration.

Soil erosion has been a major problem in the Island. Great damage was done in the past through widespread destruction of the natural forests and the uncontrolled grazing of many goats. More recently serious overgrazing of the pastures was causing erosion which, had it not been checked, would have threatened to destroy the agricultural life of the Island.

The first effective action against ranging goats was taken in 1940 when they were excluded by law from the high country. At the end of 1955 a further step was taken when Government adopted the policy of abolishing by stages the ranging of goats over the rest of the Island. Several areas have since been freed from these animals and the whole of the eastern side of the Island is now clear.

In the meantime measures of re-afforestation, fencing of pastures and control of stock numbers have been carried out in the high country with beneficial effects which are now apparent.

On arable land, terracing, planting of windbreaks and the use of grass leys have been advocated and demonstrated but hitherto little enthusiasm has been shown for such measures by a farming community which is still severely handicapped by economic difficulties.

Water conservation has undoubtedly been helped by the measures mentioned above, which in effect have ensured much greater protection of the main catchment areas. In addition, a number of springs have been protected.

The weather in 1956 and 1957 was again favourable for reconditioning work, and further progress was made; but the greater part of the Island remains waste land.

The types of land tenure common on the Island are freehold and leasehold, the freehold titles dating back to East India Company days.

A Land Settlement and Government Pasturages Advisory Committee has functioned well during the period under review. The Youth Training Scheme, started in 1954, has been continued and it is hoped it will provide suitable material if a satisfactory settlement scheme can be introduced.

CROPS

New Zealand Flax (Phormium tenax)

The production of Phormium fibre continues to be the main agricultural industry of the Colony. Two firms own the bulk of the leaf-growing area and all the mills, of which there are now seven. Five of these were in operation at the beginning of 1956 but only four at the end of 1957. Throughout the period the industry has remained depressed under the shadow of continuing low prices.

Export figures are given on page 16.

Lily Bulbs

The number of bulbs of *Lilium longiflorum* exported in 1956 and 1957 were 2,200 and 974 respectively. The quality of the bulbs again improved, but premature sprouting continued to be a cause of anxiety and has acted as a check on the re-expansion of the trade. It is hoped that the present season will confirm the tentative theory that has been formed about the cause of the trouble.

Coffee

St. Helena coffee has been proved to be of high quality and it is understood that a satisfactory market could be found for economic quantities. Unfortunately most of the coffee trees were destroyed early in the century. Cultural experiments on a small scale have been in progress for some years, and during the period under review some increase in acreage was made in Sandy Bay, where the crop is known to do well; small trial plantings were made in other areas. The area suitable for coffee is limited, but the establishment of a coffee industry would be of considerable value to the Island.

Food Crops

Potato production was satisfactory during 1956 but the winter crop in 1957 was a failure owing to seasonal conditions which favoured the spread of potato blight. This has caused a shortage of good seed and special efforts are being made to rectify the position. The production of green vegetables continued to be affected by seasonal shortages which can only be removed by some extension of irrigation. In spite of the bad winter of 1957 the Growers Co-operative Society had a record turnover that year.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Stock-census figures for 1955 and 1957 were as follows:

Year	Cattle	Horses	Donkeys	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Poultry
1955	724	29	1,161	1,218	266	1,861	9,200
1957	871	27	1,125	1,163	324	1,716	8,908

During 1957, 152 cattle, 143 sheep and 195 pigs were slaughtered compared with 196 cattle, 399 sheep and 93 pigs in 1955. Sales of

meat were 43,163 lb. of beef, 2,878 lb. of mutton and 10,330 lb. of pork. The prices of meat at the end of 1957 were 1s. 6d. a pound for beef, 2s. a pound for mutton and 2s. a pound for pork.

The rise in the number of cattle from its lowest point of 702 in 1954 has been very welcome, particularly as there has been a satisfactory increase in the number of females. There has been no corresponding increase in sheep nor does this appear to be likely until reconditioning of pastures is further advanced. The number of range goats continues to decrease and they are now much fewer than the tame goats.

The general condition of the cattle continued to be good. Inoculations against anthrax and black-quarter were continued and no cases of these diseases were suspected during the period. Early in 1957 foot-and-mouth disease was suspected in a small isolated herd. The herd was slaughtered and other appropriate measures taken and the attack was successfully stamped out. Worm infestations have always been a factor in stock raising in St. Helena and some serious cases occurred in 1956. More attention is now being paid to this trouble in some quarters.

The Agricultural Department continued to maintain small herds of cattle at Sunnyside and Longwood. At the former the emphasis is on dairy cattle and the herd includes some of the best milking strains from the original Ayrshire herd. At Longwood the herd now includes some crosses aimed more at the production of meat than milk.

Large Black boars and breeding sows were also kept at both stations. Progeny from all the above are available for sale to farmers.

The number of poultry has been maintained at a satisfactory level and poultry products were in fair supply throughout the period.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT STAFF

At the end of 1957 the permanent senior field staff consisted of the Agricultural and Forestry Officer, a Senior Agricultural Supervisor, two Agricultural Supervisors, two Assistant Agricultural Supervisors, one Stock Inspector and one Assistant Stock Inspector. The post of Agricultural Superintendent remained vacant throughout 1957. Work is organised in two divisions, the Scotland division on the western side of the Island and the Longwood division on the eastern side.

Towards the end of 1957 an entomologist from the Colonial Entomological Pool was seconded to St. Helena for two years to carry out investigations on insect pests affecting Agriculture and Forestry in the Island.

FORESTRY

With the assistance of the Forestry Advisory Committee, set up under the Forestry Ordinance, 1954, further progress was made with the constitution of forests under that Ordinance. All established Crown Forests have now been constituted National Forests; a number of Dedicated Forests and one Protected Private Forest have

also been declared. Certain other private forests, which have not been constituted, have been declared Controlled Areas in which exploitation can only be done under satisfactory conditions.

In 1939 it was estimated that the Forests of St. Helena had dwindled to no more than 400 acres all told, and much of this was in poor condition owing to the ravages of goats and the need to maintain essential fuel requirements. At the end of 1956 it was estimated that the forest area had increased to 1,000 acres of established trees (including some 200 acres of private forest) with some 400 acres in process of being established. The last figure includes an extensive area on the south-eastern side of the Island where an experiment in assisted natural regeneration was begun in 1954. It is now clear that this experiment will be in large measure successful, and it indicates the way in which other denuded areas can be brought back to usefulness.

A statement of forest policy was approved at the end of 1954. This recognises two classes of forests: those at a greater altitude than 1,500 feet which should produce fuel and timber and are important for the protection of the main catchment areas, and those below that contour which are important in checking further erosion and in bringing back denuded areas to forest. The long-term objective for the latter class is the creation of a forest belt all round the Island between the fertile interior and the dry lowlands. This belt can be seen emerging on the northern side, and the scheme of assisted natural regeneration mentioned above represents its beginnings on the exposed southern side of the Island. The gradual extinction of the goat range is a necessary part of this development.

Of necessity, increased fuel production has been the main object during recent years and this has meant that the bulk of trees planted have been quick-maturing kinds. At the same time notes have been made of species showing resistance to attack by damp-wood termites. Although the number of resistant species available is still small, it is now possible to plant for timber production with some confidence, and a small start along these lines was made in 1957.

It must still be some years before there can be a marked expansion of fuel supplies from the national forests and many years must elapse before there is any significant production of timber. Nevertheless, partly by some increase in sales and partly by increased prices for forest products, revenue from these forests has more than doubled in the last few years and now is in the region of £1,000 per annum.

The staff of the Forestry Division of the Agricultural and Forestry Department consists of a Head Forester and an Assistant Forester working directly under the Agricultural and Forestry Officer. There are also 6 Forest Guards and a small force of forest labourers.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The only co-operative society in St. Helena is the St. Helena Growers Co-operative Society. This Society continued its recovery from the bad time experienced in 1954, and in 1957 it had a record turnover in

spite of the adverse winter season. Sales during 1956 amounted to £3,225 which included sales to ships totalling £1,347 and to Ascension totalling £680. The corresponding figures for 1957 were local £1,583; to ships £1,250; to Ascension £1,355.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

THE educational system is similar in growth and pattern to that of England. The Education Schools Amalgamation Ordinance, 1941, brought the Church and Charity Schools under the control of the Government and the direction of the Education Officer. Both the Church and Charities retain representation on the Board of Education, which advises on the carrying out of Government policy. The 1941 Ordinance was of a progressive nature, and has not required any significant modification.

Education is compulsory and free for all children between the ages of five and fifteen, but power to exempt children after the age of fourteen years is given to the Education Officer. More than 1,340 children, some 28 per cent of the population, are enrolled in the twelve schools of the Island—a remarkably high proportion. The population is literate, though educational standards are lower than in Britain. There is at present no facility for formal education beyond the age of fifteen.

<i>Schools</i>	<i>Children on roll at Jan., 1957</i>	<i>Staff</i>	
		<i>Head and Assistants</i>	<i>Pupil Teachers</i>
Primary (5-11 years)			
Blue Hill	37	1	1
Country Junior	102	3	1
Half Tree Hollow	155	2	4
Jamestown Infants	128	1	3
Jamestown Junior	171	1	5
Longwood	126	3	2
Hutt's Gate (5-15 years)	137	1	4
Levelwood (5-15 years)	80	1 part-time 2	1
Sandy Bay (5-15 years)	56	1 part-time 2	2
Secondary (11-15 years)		1 part-time	
Country Senior	176	3 + 2*	3
Pilling	120	4 + 3* +	—
St. Helena Secondary Selective	80	2	1
		3 part-time	

* Special-subject teachers.

The Education Officer and his staff also undertake information and library work.

Total expenditure on education in 1956 was £14,451 which represents approximately 8 per cent of total Government expenditure. In 1957, the approximate expenditure was £14,746, about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of all Government expenditure.

The 1955-60 programme of building under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts has begun with the erection of a new Senior School to replace Hutt's Gate. This was opened on the 29th December, 1957, at a much more suitable site at Longwood. It has been named the Harford School, and will accommodate Senior children only. It has Woodwork and Domestic Science Centres, a large playing field, and a considerable area of garden. The Primary classes from the old Hutt's Gate School will be accommodated in new classrooms to be added to the present Longwood Junior school in the near future. Extensions to Country Senior and Country Junior Schools were also begun at the end of 1957, while the Secondary Selective School was re-housed in a reconditioned building.

The new reading scheme introduced in 1955 had begun to have the intended effect by the end of 1957, standards of reading showing definite improvement. An examination system was introduced in October 1957, which will continue annually. The examinations are taken at ten plus and fourteen plus, and the provision of curricula for these examinations has made possible a widening of the subjects taught. A system of record cards was also introduced in 1957 to better the liaison between Infant, Junior and Senior Departments.

The Secondary School, which started in 1946 with twelve pupils, now has eighty on roll. It has not yet been possible to introduce the hoped-for "Grammar School Stream", but plans have been made to begin this in 1958. The new classrooms have improved conditions of work for both teacher and pupils, but the building as a whole does not permit further expansion. Additional transport should come into use in 1958, and make easier the difficult problem of bringing children to the school each day from all over the Island.

Four schools now have gardens in which "Rural Studies" are taught. There are three Housecraft and Handicraft Centres, and needlework, lacework and other crafts such as aloe-work are taught, both in these schools and those which are not large enough to warrant the building of such centres. The schools continue to exhibit with success in the District Association and Island Agricultural Shows.

The provision of dried milk by the World Health Organisation has made it possible to increase the number of school meals provided from about 25 per cent of all schoolchildren in 1956 when the scheme started, to about 36 per cent in 1957. Colonial Development and Welfare funds provide the monies for the meals, which consist of bread, margarine, meat extract, cheese and fruit. Every child

receives milk every day, and fish-oil capsules, also from the World Health Organisation, twice each week. The issue of both milk and capsules from WHO began in 1957.

Attendance has continued to be very satisfactory at the level of over 90 per cent, with but few local "problem families". It was, however, necessary to close three schools early in 1956, as a result of an epidemic of influenza. "Asian 'Flu'" caused a further closing of all schools for twelve days in November, 1957.

Students Abroad

One fully trained teacher returned to the Island in August, 1957. She is the first student trained under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship scheme to return, and has already shown the value of her training in her work at the Secondary Selective School. Two more trained teachers are due to return in 1958, while a third is in his first year at a training college.

Teacher Training

The main source of teachers continues to be the Secondary Selective School. Formal training is not possible, and for most of 1956 it was not possible to pursue the normal method of pupil-teacher training by the Education Officer, as he was single-handed. In April, 1957, all teachers attended a short course. Selected groups of teachers were given special courses in particular subjects during October, 1957, and all teachers attended fortnightly classes throughout the year. The supervision and discussion of lessons has also been resumed by the Education Officer. A group of 22 pupil teachers is studying for the G.C.E. (London University) Examination, in English Language only, which they will take in 1958.

Head teachers have been most helpful in supervising the day-to-day training of the young teachers in their schools, for pupil teachers begin their careers at the age of 15 years. Schemes of work were also introduced in 1957 designed to give the pupil teachers and assistant teachers help in their preparation for the promotion examinations which take place after four and five years' service respectively.

Staff

The number of young teachers emigrating has risen considerably during the period, as the following figures show;

<i>Year</i>	<i>Teachers emigrating</i>	<i>Leaving for other reasons</i>	<i>New pupil teachers employed</i>
1954 . . .	2	3	9
1955 . . .	2	4	8
1956 . . .	7	6	8
1957 . . .	4	1	9

This is the major problem of the educational system, to which no solution is evident. Transfers between schools, necessitated by these

departures, have an unsettling effect on both staff and pupils, and the training of teachers is made very difficult. Mr. Kerr left the Island in April, 1956, and Mr. Wagstaff continued as Acting Education Officer until the arrival of Mr. Kerr's successor in January, 1957. He carried a heavy burden during the interim period, and did so most successfully. With his departure in May, 1957, the direct link with the East Suffolk Education Authority, which had been so valuable, was severed.

Further Education

Small increases in the scope of further education have been made, although the lack of qualified staff and of suitable facilities prevents the erection of a suitable institution. The needlework and lace-making classes continued to be well attended. A second shorthand class was run during 1956, and the same instructor is now running a touch-typing class for government clerks. Aloe-work classes, started in the schools by Mr. Wagstaff, were extended to Further Education in late 1956, and continue to be popular. A woodwork class, begun in Jamestown in 1956, is steadily increasing in size. Both folk-dance classes continue to be well attended.

Visits

The visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in January, 1957, was an honour to which the schoolchildren of St. Helena gave its full due. Every child had an opportunity to see His Royal Highness and a few were able to speak with him. Prince Philip opened the new Recreation Ground in Jamestown, which has since been in constant use.

PUBLIC HEALTH

General Health

Two epidemics during the winter of 1957 added greatly to the work of the Medical Department and caused extra expenditure on drugs; the epidemics were whooping cough and influenza.

During 1956 only influenza occurred in epidemic form; the 1957 outbreak was even severer in its manifestations and complications than that of 1956.

The effects and results of the epidemics are reflected in a higher death rate than usual for 1957 and a higher infant mortality rate. The infant mortality rate for 1956 was exceptionally low being only 15·7 per 1,000 live births. In 1957 it rose to 41·7 per 1,000, partly owing to the whooping-cough epidemic. The general death rate was 9·0 in 1956 and 11·8 in 1957; the latter was affected by two accidental deaths in addition to the epidemic.

The main diseases are of the respiratory system. Asthma and bronchitis are fairly prevalent and a high incidence of coryza in young children prevails.

Degenerative diseases of the heart provide the main cause of mortality on the Island. In both 1956 and 1957 over 30 per cent of the deaths were from this cause. The remainder are fairly evenly distributed throughout the other systems of the body.

In 1957 four of the deaths occurred in children under one year. An oxygen tent has now been made locally and it is hoped to improve the chances of premature children by this means.

The complications of ascaris-worm infection continue to provide the only tropical-disease problem in the Island. The manifestations of the ascaris worm are protean and cause a lot of disability in the children in the Longwood area.

The only other endemic tropical disease is amoebiasis. Only a few cases are seen yearly and this disease does not pose a big problem.

The tuberculosis problem remains insignificant; two new cases were reported in 1956 and two in 1957.

Maternal mortality for the last four years was nil.

Medical and Public Health Department

Medical work is centered on one main hospital of 60 beds. The hospital, which is new, is equipped up to modern standards, and general operative work is performed there. Operations of the magnitude of a gastrectomy need to be sent to South Africa, but they are of rare occurrence.

Two doctors visit five clinics which serve the whole Island. A Health Sister visits the same clinics for maternity and child welfare work.

A physiotherapy unit works in close association with the hospital in an adjoining building. In the same building is housed the dental clinic, the Jamestown child-welfare clinic and the laboratory, in addition to stores and administrative offices.

The Senior Medical Officer has a Public Health Inspector and an assistant to provide a sanitary service for the Island. This service provides refuse collection and disposal.

No conservancy system exists as such but assistance is given in faecal disposal in certain country districts where ascaris worm is an endemic problem. Water-borne sanitation is universal in Jamestown.

In the country districts most of the conservancy is by bucket latrine. Approximately 600 households use buckets in the rural areas and the householder is responsible for faecal disposal. The sanitation policy at present is to substitute chemical buckets for ordinary buckets in certain areas where ascariasis prevails. Trials are also being made with the "Aqua" privy in the rural areas.

There are three main filtered water supplies—Jamestown, Half Tree Hollow and Longwood. It is hoped to extend the filtration plant in Jamestown as the existing plant is inadequate. It is also proposed to install a chlorination system for all the main water supplies.

Staff

There is no privately employed medical staff.

The government medical staff consists of one senior medical officer, one medical officer, three nursing sisters, one health sister, one assistant health sister, one district nurse, nine nurses, one trainee midwife, and three nursing orderlies.

The sanitary staff consists of one public health inspector, one assistant health inspector and three scavengers. Extra staff are employed when required.

The principal remaining staff of the Public Health Department are one chief clerk, one learner clerk, one dispenser/storekeeper and one assistant dispenser/storekeeper; one dental officer, one dental nurse and one dental mechanic; one physiotherapist; one trainee laboratory assistant.

Expenditure

The expenditure of the Public Health Department was £14,783 in 1956 and £15,886 in 1957.

Hospitals and Clinics

There is one main hospital which caters for the whole Island; it has 60 beds, of which eight are reserved for obstetric work.

There is one mental hospital which can take 22 patients.

There are six main clinics used both by doctors and the health sister for general outpatients and for maternity and child welfare work.

Developments in Public Health and Sanitary Organisation and Disease Control Programmes

Nutrition is being improved by an Island-wide distribution of free skim milk provided by UNICEF.

All flour consumed has lately been enriched by the inclusion of the vitamin B complex and iron and calcium additives.

Free meals are being provided at the schools and supplementary diets are being given to necessitous pre-school children and nursing and pregnant mothers.

There is a scheme to provide chemical latrine buckets in certain areas in order to combat round-worm infection.

A refuse disposal campaign is being extended to rural areas by the provision of incinerators and refuse bins.

Research is limited by a shortage of staff, but technicians and doctors provided by the World Health Organisation are to arrive in 1958 to enable certain research work to be carried out. Tuberculosis and nutrition will both be investigated.

SOCIAL WELFARE

A grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds made possible for the first time the appointment of a Social Welfare Officer,

who arrived in the Colony in November, 1956. He was appointed chairman of a Social Welfare Advisory Committee formed in February, 1957.

Advice and assistance to those in doubt or difficulty is given by the Social Welfare Officer who co-operates in the care and relief of the destitute with the Secretary to the Poor Relief Board, a statutory body. Improved services are thus available to the applicants to the Board, many of whom reside in outlying areas difficult of access, and almost all of whom are aged and infirm. There is no old-age pension.

An annual grant of £500 is made to the Poor Relief Board by the Government and about £1,400 is collected by the Board by means of rates. Membership of the Board consists of two government officials nominated by the Governor, two members of the Advisory Council nominated by the Governor, and four elected ratepayers. There is at all times a ratepayers' majority.

A grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds enabled the Board to close the former Poor House and open a comfortable and pleasant "St. Helena Parish Home" in October, 1956. Accommodation is available for 36 persons, compared with 20 in the old Poor House. Admission is controlled by the Board, with primary regard to poverty, or old age combined with poverty.

The development of group activities has been stimulated by a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme to provide social centres in four districts. The first, at Longwood, known as the Harford Social Centre, involved the successful adaption of a disused flax mill. It was opened in August, 1957, offers an attractive programme of varied activities to local residents of all ages, and is well supported. The centre is leased by Government to the Longwood District Association. Other centres will be leased similarly to District Associations in Sandy Bay and St. Paul's, and to residents in Jamestown.

Other group activities include Women's Institutes, a Young Farmers' Club, Rifle Clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations and Folk Dances. There are Scouts, Cubs and Rangers in Jamestown, and Girl Guides and Brownies in the country districts. Both the Scouts and the Rangers gave well-attended concerts in 1957, and the Scouts and Guides held annual camps in the country. There is a Red Cross detachment, and a Red Cross Junior Link with a membership of 40.

Islanders who are able to do so make some financial provision for periods of sickness, burial expenses and inability to work, by subscribing to one or more of the six Friendly Societies which in 1956 had a total membership of 3,099. All societies are subject to control by regulations made under the Friendly Societies Ordinance, and play an important part in the social structure, preserving traditional ceremonies and affording the only means of insurance against acute distress.

Material assistance was received from overseas during 1957, notably in the form of used clothing and footwear, sent to and

distributed by the Social Welfare Officer, in co-operation with the Health Sister and members of the District Associations, to over 200 needy families. Toys for poor children and three second-hand wheel-chairs for the Parish Home residents were sent as gifts from voluntary societies in the United Kingdom. Soup kitchens, run by the Salvation Army, were opened at Deadwood and Half Tree Hollow during 1957.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

During 1956 no houses were constructed by the Public Works Department since it was fully employed on other essential works, mainly for the Public Health and Education Departments; progress was made during late 1957 in converting and adapting existing buildings.

A subsidy scheme is in operation whereby people erect their own houses with Government help, but this is proving slow because of the islanders' lack of technical knowledge; since late 1957 the Government has been supplying technical assistance.

A loan scheme also exists whereby people may purchase a limited amount of materials to repair their properties; this scheme has proved very successful especially since Government's technical assistance has been made available.

Assistance, in the form of issues of building materials from the Public Works Department on easy repayment terms, has been given to a large number of people wishing to build their own homes and to carry out repairs. (In most of these cases local stone is used for the outer walls.) On occasion Government has also made available the services of skilled labour to those building their own homes, but it has been found necessary to discontinue this form of assistance.

There is no commercial construction of private dwellings owing to the lack of private contractors; any skilled building labour that is available is employed by the Public Works Department on government projects.

There is no town planning legislation.

Jamestown, the capital of the Island, has the greatest density of population with one-third of the Island's total population.

Where there are large families there is some overcrowding, but Government has for many years been building new houses, both in Jamestown and in the country districts, to the extent that supplies of building materials and number of skilled workmen will allow. All building materials must be imported, and as the only timber that can be used must be termite-resisting, building costs are high. Natural housing sites are almost non-existent in Jamestown and the cost of removing rocks and rubble and of suitably preparing the sites adds greatly to the cost of all housing schemes.

Colonial Development and Welfare funds for Government housing schemes have been made available.

Tenants in most Government properties pay a very low rent, the average being about 2s. 9d. per week which is much less than the economic rent.

Chapter 8: Legislation

THE following legislation enacted during the years 1956 and 1957 is of interest:

1956

No. 2 of 1956. *Mental Health Ordinance* repeals the Lunatic Asylum Ordinance, Cap. 66, and provides for the care of persons of unsound mind and for purposes connected therewith in accordance with modern practice.

No. 4 of 1956. *Agricultural and Livestock Improvement (Amendment) Ordinance* amends the principal Ordinance and enables the Agricultural and Forestry Officer to order owners and occupiers of land to take such measures as he considers necessary for the conservation of natural resources on any land.

No. 5 of 1956. *Tristan da Cunha Liquor Ordinance*, provides for the control of the supply and sale of liquor in Tristan da Cunha.

1957

No. 1 of 1957. *Termites Ordinance* repeals the White Ants Ordinance, Cap. 128, and provides for the control of the spread of infestation by termites or white ants.

No. 12 of 1957. *Control of Imports Ordinance* makes permanent provision for the control of imports into the Colony.

No. 13 of 1957. *Liquor (Licensing) (Amendment) Ordinance* amends the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance and prohibits the employment of any female under the age of 16 years on any licensed premises.

No. 14 of 1957. *Control of Exports Ordinance* makes permanent provision for the control of exports from the Colony.

No. 15 of 1957. *Price Control Ordinance* makes permanent provision for the control of prices and matters incidental thereto.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE judicial organisation consists of four Courts:

The Supreme Court. The Chief Justice presides over this Court which has full criminal and civil jurisdiction. Criminal cases on the calendar are dealt with according to English procedure as far as local

circumstances permit, and prisoners have the right of trial by jury if they so elect. The Court, which is situated in Jamestown, also has Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Divisions. Appeal under certain circumstances is to the Privy Council. The Governor acts as Chief Justice.

The Magistrate's Court. The Magistrate is the Government Secretary, who is also a Justice of the Peace. There are four other Justices of the Peace, any two of whom can sit in the Magistrate's Court. There is a right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Small Debts Court. A Justice of the Peace is appointed by the Governor as Judge of this Court, which hears civil cases for the recovery of debts not exceeding £25.

The Juvenile Court. This is held by the Magistrate or Justices, and the only other persons present in the Court are the Police Prosecutor and the parents of the accused child. There is no remand home and children are not sentenced to any form of detention.

A person without legal training may act, with the approval of the Court, in the interests of the defendant or plead a cause in the Supreme Court. There are no practising solicitors or barristers.

Statistics of cases tried by the Courts are given at Appendix V.

POLICE

The members of the Police Force are recruited locally, but the Superintendent of the Force is a Police Officer appointed from the United Kingdom.

The strength of the Force is one Superintendent, two sergeants and normally 10 constables, two of whom perform a year's tour at Ascension. In 1956 the police establishment at Ascension was augmented by the temporary employment of two constables, owing to the American guided missile project which was started there. More than 280 St. Helenians were employed by the American contractors in addition to the Americans.

A copy of Moriarty's Police Law has been issued to each member of the Force, the result being a more instructed attitude to their duties and, it is believed, greater public confidence in the Force.

A local auxiliary force of 20 special constables, which was formed in 1952, is functioning satisfactorily.

The Superintendent of Police is also Passport Control Officer and Immigration Officer.

Crime

Serious crime is not prevalent, and most of the minor offences, particularly petty thieving of money, are committed by juveniles of school age. The duties of the Probation Officer, formerly performed voluntarily by the Vicar of Jamestown or in country districts by police constables, were transferred to the Social Welfare Officer in November, 1956. The duties comprise those normally undertaken by the Probation Service in the United Kingdom, including pre-sentence reports and prison after-care.

During 1956 in the more serious cases juveniles were brought before the Juvenile Court, and in most prosecutions the Justices ordered them to report each Saturday morning for four to eight weeks at the local Police Station, for light work and supervision. Although this proved satisfactory, the system was discontinued during 1957 following the appointment of the Social Welfare Officer (who was formerly a Probation Officer in the United Kingdom).

PRISONS

The Superintendent of Police is also the Superintendent of Prisons. The Jamestown prison has a staff of two—the warder, and his wife who acts as matron. Five male prisoners were committed to prison during 1956 and four in 1957. There is no special provision for first offenders or for the segregation of recidivists. Work consists of general labour inside the prison and, when required, outside cleaning or clearance of sites.

The Munden's Prison came into being on 28th January, 1957, when three prisoners convicted in Bahrain were received at the request of the Ruler of Bahrain. The staff consists of three male Guards; the Head Guard is responsible to the Superintendent of Prisons.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

WATER

THERE are no central waterworks, but piped supplies (mainly catchment storage tanks and stand pipes) are available.

A Colonial Development and Welfare scheme is in operation for improvement of the supplies for Jamestown and certain country districts, mainly to provide for better filtration, storage and sterilisation. There is an adequate water supply and ample is available for passing ships, though delivery to ships is slow.

All water supplies are under government control.

LIGHTING

An electricity service is operated in Jamestown, the charges being 1s. a unit for the first 60 units, then 6d. a unit. The undertaking is owned by Messrs. Solomon and Company (St. Helena) Limited.

Two 112-h.p. Blackstone diesel generating units provide 400-volt 3-phase alternating current at 50 cycles, with a 230-volt supply for domestic use.

TRANSPORT

There is no public transport system. There are, however, sufficient taxis available for all needs, as well as a few "drive yourself" cars that can be hired by visitors and others. In spite of the high cost of

running and maintaining vehicles, owing to the fact that practically all roads have steep gradients and sharp bends, the hire charges for taxis and cars are reasonable.

There are no railways, inland waterways or airfields.

TELEPHONES

There is a telephone system serving nearly all districts. The annual charges are as follows:

		£	s.	d.
Business Lines	each instrument	8	0	0
Residential Lines	each instrument	7	0	0
Party Lines and lines with extensions, except internal house extensions:				
Business	each instrument	6	0	0
Residential	each instrument	5	5	0
Internal house extensions	each instrument	1	15	0

There are call boxes in most districts.

The telephone system was taken over by the Public Works Department at the end of 1953.

PUBLIC WORKS

The major works carried out by the Public Works Department during the two years included:

Completion of the new General Hospital.

Completion of the new Parish Home.

Erection of the new Harford Senior School at Longwood.

Erection of the Harford Social Centre at Longwood.

Completion of the Social Centre for the St. Paul's District.

Part completion of the new road from Cason's Gate to Thompson's Wood.

Adaptations of existing properties to provide housing accommodation for approximately 60 people.

Erection and completion (within 3 weeks) of a new two-classroom block at the Country School.

Renewal and filtration of the water service from the Briars to Rupert's Valley.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

FORTY-ONE merchant ships of a total of 309,116 tons called during 1957, 24 being en route to South African ports, 13 to the United Kingdom and four to the United States of America; H.M. Yacht *Britannia*, H.M.S. *Pelican*, H.M.S. *Loch Insh*, H.M.S. *Lynx* and H.M.S. *Mount's Bay* also visited the Colony during 1957.



(Acknowledgements to L. A. Self)

*H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Governor, Sir James Harford,
leaving the Castle*



(Acknowledgements to L. G. Stroud)

Wideawake Tern, Ascension



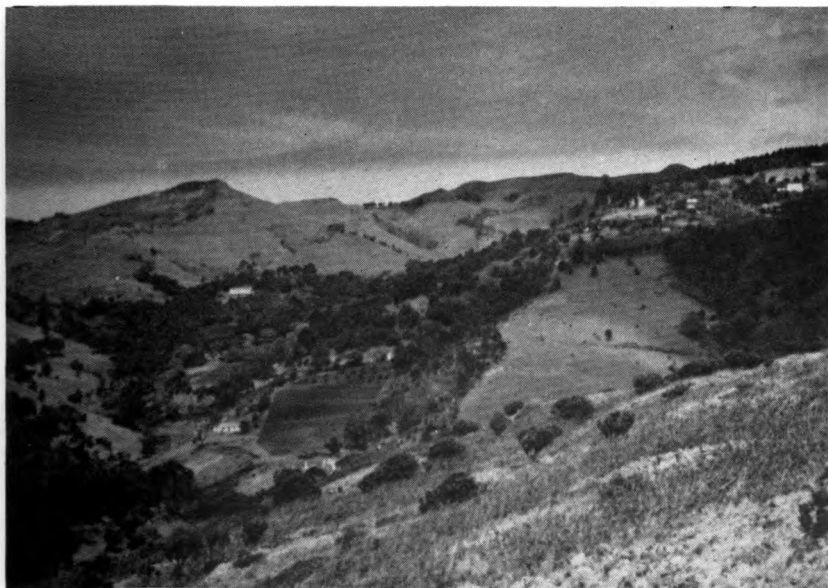
(Acknowledgements to E. B. Gresty)

The Wharf, Jamestown



(Acknowledgements to L. G. Stroud)

Landing at Ascension



(Acknowledgements to E. B. Gresty)

Looking south from High Knoll



(Acknowledgements to E. B. Gresty)

A member of the Young Farmers' Club

The only port in St. Helena is Jamestown, which is an open roadstead with good anchorages for ships of any size.

Navigation lights are installed on the beacons at Ladder Hill and Munden's Point to assist ships calling at the port of Jamestown during the hours of darkness. The navigation lights are switched on if the Harbour Master is requested to do so at least twelve hours before the expected arrival of a ship.

ROADS

There are 64½ miles of motor roads on the island, the majority of which are usable by motor traffic in all weather. Further road improvements have been made during the period under review.

POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES

The Post Office in Jamestown is the only post office in the Colony. Letter and parcel mails are carried by Union Castle ships which make monthly calls both on their way from the United Kingdom to South Africa and also in the reverse direction. Farrell Line ships, en route to Cape Town from New York, call at intervals of six weeks and mails for South Africa are also despatched by these ships. There is no direct air mail service to or from the Colony. Air mail correspondence is, however, accepted and despatched by surface mail to the United Kingdom and South Africa for onward conveyance by air to the countries of destination. In addition to an ordinary money order service there is a telegraph money order service between both the United Kingdom and South Africa. British postal orders are issued and paid. There is no internal postal service in the Colony. Telegrams are accepted by Messrs. Cable and Wireless, Limited.

Chapter 12: Press and Information Services

THE Education Officer and his staff function also as an Information Department. Its main activities comprise the provision of library facilities, cinema shows, and periodicals. The public library in Jamestown is well stocked with books, periodicals and information material. Generous gifts were received in both 1956 and 1957 from the British Council and the Victoria League, and in 1957 from the United States. The branch libraries were closed in 1956, as they received little support, but the opening of Social Centres in the Country Districts has made it possible to set up small libraries in the country and these are meeting with greater success. A new projector has improved the already high quality of the monthly cinema shows given in six country districts. These provide newsreels, interest, and documentary films, and large audiences travel considerable distances to see them.

There are no newspapers. A weekly cyclostyled "News Review", published by the Education Department, keeps people in touch with the World and local events. The monthly "Wirebird", started in 1955, and government sponsored, has gradually increased its circulation, which is now 570 copies per month.

The *Official Gazette* is published monthly, annual subscription 15s.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

ST. HELENA lies in 16° south latitude and 5° 45' west longitude, and the principal geographical factor affecting the Island is the Atlantic Ocean. The Island has an area of only 47 square miles, the nearest land is the still smaller Island of Ascension 703 miles to the north-west, the nearest continental land is Africa 1,000 miles to the east, and the nearest regularly accessible place of importance is Cape Town at a distance of 1,694 miles, a four-and-a-half days' passage, to the south-east. The Port of London is some 4,600 miles away and Tristan da Cunha lies 1,315 miles south-by-west from St. Helena. The 1,000-fathom line is nowhere more than 4½ miles from the shore.*

This exceptionally isolated position governs the life of the Island by its effect on climate and communications.

The Island is 10½ miles long and 6½ miles wide. It is wholly volcanic in origin and almost everywhere rugged and mountainous. High forbidding cliffs bound the Island almost continuously on every side. Steepsided deep valleys run down in all directions from a central ridge which is 2,700 feet above the sea at its highest point; this ridge forms a semicircle with its extremities on the south coast and cuts off an area of seven square miles of rocky country which slopes precipitously to the shore, suggesting the remaining half of a volcanic crater of which the southern half has disappeared beneath the sea. The rest of the Island consists of steep hills, many over a thousand feet in height and several over two thousand, with a few square miles of flatter land on the east side.

The only inland waters are small streams, few of them now perennial, fed by springs in the central hills. These streams and rain-water are sufficient for domestic water supplies, but none of them provides enough water for agricultural irrigation where it is needed.

The soils are mainly clays, highly acid and rich in potassium, but deficient in available phosphorus and possibly in magnesium. The arable land is deficient in nitrogen.

The climate is the uncomplicated result of the Island's position—in the tropics, but far from any land mass and in the path of the steadiest south-east trade winds. It is warm, damp and equable, with local variation between the warmer and drier low-lying parts, which include Jamestown at sea-level, and the cooler, damper and more cloudy uplands. Though relative humidity is high it is not coupled with temperatures high enough to cause discomfort. Winds are

* Distances in nautical miles.

seldom very strong but their constant force and unvarying direction are a severe hindrance to the establishment of vegetation in exposed positions.

Rainfall figures (in inches) over the past ten years are as follows:

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Plantation	33·61	32·98	38·45	34·42	28·53	33·59	36·98	36·94	30·72	36·96
Hutt's Gate	33·23	33·04	43·23	37·33	30·79	29·56	36·81	38·47	35·47	36·66
Briars	21·44	21·59	27·48	19·81	18·75	22·60	23·97	24·10	22·31	25·76
Jamestown	8·33	6·39	17·19	6·39	5·15	9·60	10·29	10·00	8·47	11·25

The St. Helena Meteorological Station at Hutt's Gate (2,066 feet) recorded the following observations during 1956 and 1957:

1956

1956 Month	Mean Cloud	Rainfall (Inches)			Weather No. of days of						Wind No. of observations of						
		Total	Max.	Date	Rain	Fog	Clear Sky	Over- cast	Gales	Thun- der	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	N.W.
Jan.	6·8	2·27	·62	27th	13	11	1	12	—	—	—	2	8	91	14	—	9
Feb.	6·8	3·08	·40	4th	23	12	2	14	—	—	—	—	7	96	13	—	—
Mar.	6·9	6·64	1·12	19th	25	10	2	12	—	—	—	2	9	92	19	—	2
Apr.	7·3	6·59	1·12	18th	25	15	2	17	—	—	—	2	9	90	14	—	4
May	6·6	2·81	·33	12th	21	10	3	14	—	—	2	5	14	70	23	1	9
Jun.	6·7	3·12	·49	30th	16	8	3	12	—	—	10	12	69	19	—	—	10
Jul.	6·6	2·01	·24	6th	18	10	2	20	—	—	—	6	18	83	17	—	—
Aug.	6·9	3·09	·53	19th	19	14	1	18	—	—	3	8	87	26	—	—	—
Sept.	7·2	2·36	·26	16th	21	10	1	21	—	—	1	3	4	80	26	1	4
Oct.	7·7	2·11	·25	20th	25	12	—	29	—	—	—	2	90	32	—	—	—
Nov.	7·3	1·05	·21	12th	17	11	1	23	—	—	—	8	80	32	—	—	—
Dec.	6·5	0·34	·11	7th	6	2	5	12	—	—	1	8	79	31	—	—	5
Total	83·3	35·47	Max. 1·12 on 19th March and 18th April		229	125	23	204	—	—	4	34	107	1007	266	—	2
Mean	6·9																143

1956

Month	Mean Pressure	Air Temperatures Means of Absolute Minimum and Maximum						Mean V. P.	Mean R. H.
		Mean	Mtn.	Max.	Min.	Date	Max. Date		
Jan.	1014·4	61·8	59·0	65·9	56	2, 18	75	15	17·3
Feb.	1014·5	62·5	59·9	65·7	58	6, 12	73	11	17·8
Mar.	1014·7	63·4	60·7	66·9	58	28, 31	75	11, 15	18·1
Apr.	1015·4	62·0	60·1	65·1	58	21	73	16	18·1
May	1016·8	60·9	58·3	64·3	52	23	78	1	16·5
Jun.	1018·8	58·5	55·7	61·8	53	15, 30	74	22, 25	15·1
Jul.	1020·3	56·1	53·5	59·3	51	22	68	17	13·9
Aug.	1019·6	56·3	54·0	59·1	52	9	69	2	14·3
Sept.	1018·7	56·1	53·2	58·6	52	12, 13	71	2, 23	14·2
Oct.	1018·2	55·6	53·7	58·0	52	29	65	16	14·5
Nov.	1017·2	56·5	53·9	58·9	52	3, 4	70	28	14·3
Dec.	1016·5	59·6	56·3	63·9	53	1, 10	72	12, 31	15·7
Total	12205·1	709·3	678·3	747·5	ABS. 51 on 4th July		ABS. 78 on 1st May	189·8	1110
Mean	1017·1	59·1	56·5	62·3				15·8	92·5

1957

1957 Month	Mean Cloud	Rainfall (Inches)			Weather No. of days of						Wind No. of observations of								
		Total	Max.	Date	Rain	Fog	Clear Sky	Over- cast	Gales	Thun- der	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
Jan.	6.9	1.64	.32	4th	17	12	7	14	-	-	-	-	4	88	32	-	-	-	-
Feb.	6.9	3.22	.55	4th	22	10	2	13	-	-	-	-	6	69	37	-	-	-	-
Mar.	7.0	8.25	.78	14th	31	21	-	19	-	-	-	-	3	75	46	-	-	-	-
Apr.	6.5	1.95	.37	3rd	14	10	4	13	-	-	1	2	7	72	35	-	-	-	3
May	6.6	3.38	.46	18th	22	8	2	16	-	-	-	3	10	69	41	-	-	-	1
Jun.	6.9	4.81	.98	23rd	23	17	3	17	-	-	-	10	77	31	-	-	-	-	2
Jul.	6.7	2.72	.47	2nd	15	12	-	13	-	-	-	2	6	69	38	3	-	-	3
Aug.	7.4	3.54	.34	4th	21	22	6	18	-	-	-	-	2	72	49	-	-	-	1
Sept.	7.6	3.62	.70	7th	26	23	1	20	-	-	-	-	4	81	35	-	-	-	-
Oct.	7.5	2.00	.30	5th	23	20	1	22	-	1	-	2	3	83	35	-	-	-	1
Nov.	7.8	0.39	.08	1st	7	5	-	23	-	-	-	-	1	62	57	-	-	-	-
Dec.	7.2	1.14	.41	29th	16	24	2	18	-	-	-	-	4	96	24	-	-	-	-
Total	85.0	36.66	Max. .98 on 23rd June		237	184	28	206	-	1	1	9	60	913	460	3	-	3	11
Mean	7.1																		

1957

Month	Mean Pressure	Air Temperatures Means of Absolute Minimum and Maximum						Mean V. P.	Mean R. H.	
		Mean	Min.	Max.	Min.	Date	Max. Date			
Jan. . .	1016.0	63.1	60.1	66.4	58	1, 2, 7	74	27, 28	18.3	93
Feb. . .	1015.0	65.2	63.0	68.7	61	1, 2, 3	77	10	19.6	93
Mar. . .	1014.9	65.9	63.3	68.9	62	18, 31	79	3	20.3	94
Apr. . .	1015.9	64.4	62.0	67.3	60	29	78	29	18.9	92
May . . .	1017.1	62.7	60.1	65.7	58	28	73	1	17.7	91
June . . .	1019.4	59.3	57.1	61.1	54	20	69	1, 15, 19	15.9	92
Jul. . . .	1019.5	57.9	55.5	61.1	53	26	72	9	14.8	90
Aug. . . .	1019.7	56.3	54.2	58.8	52	21, 28	66	17	14.5	93
Sept. . . .	1018.8	55.9	53.8	58.4	52	13, 16	64	25	14.4	95
Oct. . . .	1019.1	56.0	53.7	58.4	52	3, 29	68	19	14.2	95
Nov. . . .	1017.0	57.5	55.0	60.9	53	6, 15	68	18, 26	15.3	94
Dec. . . .	1017.0	60.3	57.7	63.3	56	5	72	27	16.3	92
Total . . .	12209.4	724.5	695.5	759.0	ABS. 52 on 21st Aug., 13th & 16th Sept. and 3rd & 29th Oct.		ABS. 79 on 3rd Mar.		200.2	1114
Mean . . .	1017.5	60.4	58.0	63.3					16.7	92.8

Two-thirds of the Island is barren. The vegetation below 1,500 feet is very scanty and consists largely of cactus. Above that level, with higher rainfall and nearer to the sources of streams, the Island is green; on the central ridge there are remnants of the original natural vegetation, but this higher part of the Island consists mostly of pasture, land afforested with exotic trees, plantations of New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) and, in one place only, a fair extent of arable land. Cattle and sheep are grazed on the pastures, but goats are restricted to areas where they can do less harm.

The indigenous land fauna consists, as it did when the Island was discovered, of a single species of plover, the Wirebird (*Aegialitis s. helenae*), peculiar to St. Helena. There are large numbers of a few species of exotic birds, of economic importance as eaters of grain and fruit; rats become a serious nuisance from time to time; many kinds of insect are harmful to crops, but the Island is singularly free from insects directly harmful to man. There are no reptiles.

The population, which numbers something under 5,000, falls into three roughly equal groups. One group lives in and around Jamestown, which lies in a narrow, deep-sided valley running down to the north-west shore opposite the principal anchorage, a roadstead sheltered from the prevailing wind. The town consists of little more than a single street and there is no room for more; it runs up the valley for a mile, to a height of 500 feet. The position of the roadstead and the fact that this valley is the easiest means of access to the Island make it inevitable that the principal market and place of business should be here, as it has always been. The second group lives in the Longwood District towards the eastern side of the Island, where the flatter land and the more extensive area of good soil make farming easier. The third group are scattered in very small settlements or single households through the rest of the Island, chiefly in the higher and more fertile central region.

Economic activity is predominantly agricultural. New Zealand flax is grown for export as fibre, rope and twine, and provides the largest source of paid employment apart from employment under the Government. Potatoes, fruit and vegetables are grown by small-holders for sale in the Island and to a limited extent for export. Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry are raised for local consumption and a little dairy farming is carried on. Fish are caught for local consumption, from small boats and from the shore; for a short period ending in September, 1957 an attempt was made to exploit the fishery resources of the waters near the Island on a larger scale, but it ended in failure. There are no known mineral resources of importance except stone for building and road metalling. The only natural source of power is the wind, which is utilised on a very small scale for domestic lighting. Power for electricity generation, in Jamestown only, and for the flax mills, scattered among the flax-growing areas in the higher country, is provided by internal-combustion engines. The labour supply for agriculture and industry fluctuates with the opportunities for employment in Europe and in Ascension, and during 1956 and 1957 varied from sufficient to excessive. In the absence of any article of export except products of New Zealand flax, which fetched a poor price during these years, wages are low; as the result of low incomes, soil exhaustion and damage by pests, the returns from agriculture are unsatisfactory.

Communications with the rest of the world are carried on almost entirely through the services of Messrs. Cable and Wireless, Limited, and the ships of the Union Castle Line and the Farrell Lines (of New

York) which maintain a regular passenger and mail service from the United Kingdom and the United States and to the United Kingdom and South Africa. St. Helena is a station on the telegraph cable from South Africa to Ascension and England, and a radio-telephone service to the United Kingdom and the United States was opened to the public in 1957. The shipping service has been subject to variation but has consisted for most of the period of a monthly service in each direction by the British line and a six-weekly service, southbound only, by the American. The time of transit of mails between St. Helena and London is 12–14 days by the direct route and eight days and upwards by way of the London–Cape Town air mail. There is no air service and no landing ground for aircraft.

Internal communications consist of roads and a telephone system, both serving the whole Island. Land transport is by bus, car, pack donkey and saddle-donkey. In spite of the steep hills the islanders are accustomed to walking long distances, but the comparative remoteness of many habitations, together with the paucity and expense of motor transport, is an obstacle to the social life of the Island.

To the unscientific observer the climate appears nearly ideal, and the principal geographical feature is the scenery which is everywhere either spectacular or of various and extreme beauty.

Chapter 2: History

ST. HELENA was discovered by the Portuguese navigator, Juan de Nova Castella, on 21st May, 1502, the anniversary of St. Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine. He landed at the valley where Jamestown now stands and built a chapel there which gave the valley the name “Chapel Valley” by which it is still locally known.

The Portuguese kept the discovery of the island a secret and used it as a port of call for their East India Fleet. However, in 1588 Captain Thomas Cavendish, commanding H.M.S. *Desire*, called at St. Helena on his voyage round the world. He stayed 12 days and recorded the presence of pheasants and partridges, which are still to be found, and quantities of fruit in Chapel Valley.

Thereafter the English and Dutch merchant ships called frequently to water and refit. In 1633 the island was annexed by the Dutch but not occupied. The English East India Company seized St. Helena in 1659, but the Dutch re-took it on New Year's Day, 1673.

On 5th May, 1673, the English recaptured the island and the East India Company held it under Charter from Charles II until 1834. The Emperor Napoleon was exiled on the Island from 1815 until his death on 5th May, 1821.

On 22nd April, 1834, the island was brought under the direct government of the Crown after the East India Company had administered it for 162 years. In those days the annual expenditure was about £90,000.

In 1840 the French Frigate, *La Belle Poule*, with the Prince of Joinville on board removed Napoleon's remains to France.

The first Bishop of St. Helena, Dr. Piers C. Claughton, landed on 30th October, 1859.

In 1860 His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited St. Helena.

In 1874 the first New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) was introduced and, although at first the experiment offered little hope of commercial success, hemp is now the principal export of the Colony and the growing and manufacture of it is the main industry.

The Zulu Chief Denizula, son of the great Cetewayo, was interned in St. Helena from 1890 until 1897, when he and his retinue were sent back to Zululand.

In November, 1899, the submarine cable from Cape Town was landed at St. Helena by the Eastern Telegraph Company; it was the first stage of the England to South Africa cable.

In 1900 General Cronje and his wife were sent to St. Helena with over 500 Boer prisoners of war. By 1902 there was a total of nearly 6,000 prisoners of war on the island.

On 4th August, 1925, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales landed from H.M.S. *Repulse* and remained on the island for two days.

On 29th April, 1947, Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret, landed from H.M.S. *Vanguard* and toured the island. His Majesty presented the Colony with his Royal Standard as a memento of this unofficial visit.

On 22nd January, 1957, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh landed from H.M. Yacht *Britannia* and toured the Island.

Chapter 3: Administration

THE Government is administered in pursuance of the St. Helena Order in Council, 1956. The Governor, who alone has the power to legislate (subject to the power of Her Majesty in Council), is advised by an Executive Council and an Advisory Council.

The Executive Council consists of the Government Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer, both *ex officio*, not more than two official members and not more than three unofficial members.

The Advisory Council comprises from seven to ten members. Of these, five, who may be officials, represent respectively the five

Districts of the Island, and two represent the Friendly Societies; all are appointed by the Governor, after consultation with the District Association concerned or the Friendly Societies, as the case may be.

Relief of the poor, and certain municipal services in Jamestown such as control of the market and slaughter-house and streetlighting, are administered by a Poor Relief Board consisting of two officials, two ratepayers nominated from among the members of the Advisory Council and four persons elected by the ratepayers from among themselves. The revenue of the Board consists of a poor rate, a street-lighting rate and an annual grant from the general revenue.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

WEIGHTS and measures are governed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance. Imperial weights and measures are in use.

The Superintendent of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures, and undertakes the necessary inspections.

PART IV

Ascension

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

THE island of Ascension lies in the South Atlantic in latitude $7^{\circ} 56'$ south and longitude $14^{\circ} 25'$ west and has an area of some 34 square miles. The island is a barren, rocky peak of volcanic origin and destitute of vegetation except at the top of the peak called Green Mountain (height 2,870 feet), but despite this the land supports considerable livestock.

The climate is definitely tropical but dry. Rainfall in 1956 was 3.4 inches in Georgetown and 22.3 inches on Green Mountain; in 1957, 2.7 inches were recorded in Georgetown and 23.5 inches on Green Mountain. In Georgetown the maximum temperature recorded in 1956 was 87.8° F. and the minimum 68° F. In 1957 the temperatures recorded were about the same.

The phenomenon known as "rollers", when heavy swells are experienced, was reported on 40 occasions in 1956 and 70 in 1957 and very large rollers on three and four occasions in each year respectively.

HISTORY

The island was discovered on Ascension Day, 1501, by a Portuguese navigator and remained uninhabited until after the arrival of Napoleon in St. Helena in 1815, when a Naval garrison was placed there. The island was under the supervision of the Admiralty until it was made a Dependency of St. Helena by Letters Patent dated 12th September, 1922, and placed in the control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

ADMINISTRATION

The St. Helena Government is represented by a Resident Magistrate, who in practice is the Manager of the Cable and Wireless station. One of the officers of Cable and Wireless, Limited, is appointed Justice of the Peace, and postal work is undertaken by the wife of one of these officers. Two St. Helena police constables are stationed in the island. The employees of Cable and Wireless, Limited, with the two constables, constitute the whole normal population of the island.

At the present time the United States of America maintains a base which forms part of the Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground for

guided missiles. Administration of the base, and jurisdiction in matters which concern the United States, are governed by an agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States.

POPULATION

The population of Ascension is largely determined by the employment offered by Cable and Wireless and the United States Guided Missile project, and this may vary considerably over short periods. In December, 1956, the overseas employees of Cable and Wireless together with their families totalled 64 (25 males, 19 females and 20 children). There were 352 St. Helenians on the Island and of this figure 318 were males, 16 females and 18 children. There were no deaths during 1956 but 2 marriages and 3 births were registered. In December, 1957, there were 70 overseas employees of Cable and Wireless of whom 29 were males, 18 females and 23 children. The number of St. Helenians was 320 of whom 280 were males, 17 females and 23 children. There was one death in 1957 and 7 births.

HEALTH

Cable and Wireless has a medical officer and maintains a small hospital on the Island. In 1956 there were 107 admissions to hospital and 1,894 out-patient treatments; the figures in 1957 were 122 admissions to hospital and 2,100 out-patient treatments. The United States authorities also have a medical officer and maintain a small hospital but when occasion requires the Cable and Wireless medical officer treats the employees of the United States authorities. The health of the Island community has been generally good but there were mild influenza epidemics in 1956 and 1957.

AGRICULTURE

A farm is maintained by Cable and Wireless on Green Mountain; the following are the figures of stock:

	1956	1957		1956	1957
Bulls	1	1	Boars	1	1
Cows	9	8	Sows	5	8
Heifers	—	—	Store Pigs	8	12
Yearlings	—	2	Piglets	9	22
Calves	8	9	Donkeys	4	4

Sheep and lambs were estimated at 820 in 1956 and 1,000 in 1957. The number of animals slaughtered were:

	1956	1957
Pigs	39	22
Cattle	5	5
Sheep	319	338

The farm produced the following quantities of foodstuffs during 1956 and 1957:

	1956	1957
Meat	15,161 lb.	12,361 lb.
Bananas	13,514 lb.	8,808 lb.
Vegetables	33,540 lb.	19,485 lb.
Milk	23,736½ pts.	33,542 pts.
Potatoes (sweet)	104,148 lb.	33,221 lb.

Small quantities of oranges, grapefruit, sweet corn, pineapples, pawpaws and granadillas were also produced.

WILD LIFE

There are some wild donkeys, rabbits, wild cats, a few goats and a few partridges. Only rabbits and wild cats are permitted to be shot.

Sea-bird life is very plentiful; in particular the island is famed for the vast numbers of the Wide-awake or Hack-backed Tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*) which breed there.

All wild life is rigidly protected by Ordinance. Turtles abound at certain seasons and the catching of them is controlled by licence.

The waters around the island teem with fish; shark are very numerous as are also barracuda, tuna, bonito and multitudes of a local small fish called Black fish. In 1957 a party of ornithologists was sent to the Island by the British Ornithologists Union to study the birds, in particular the breeding habits of the Wide-awake Tern. The party is expected to remain until 1959.

VISITORS

On 25th January, 1957, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited the island in the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

The Governor visited the island from 8th to 17th June, 1957, and the Bishop of St. Helena from 11th to 25th February of the same year.

In 1956 two of Her Majesty's Ships paid calls at the island, H.M.S. *Pelican* (Commander C. J. Bateman, D.S.C., R.N.) from 12th to 14th March and H.M.S. *Magpie* (Captain I. F. M. Newham, C.B.E., R.N.) on the 29th July. H.M.S. *Pelican* also paid a further call from 16th to 17th January, 1957.

Five private yachts and ketches also called at the island in 1956 and 1957 and routine calls in connection with the operation of the United States base were also made throughout the two years by United States ships and aircraft.

PART V

Tristan da Cunha

GENERAL REVIEW

THE highlight of 1957 was undoubtedly the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on 17th January. Reasonably fine weather enabled His Royal Highness to spend the whole day ashore and to see the islanders in their homes, at work and at play. His Royal Highness laid the first stone of the new village hall and in accordance with local belief placed a shilling under the stone to bring good luck to the building which was named "Prince Philip Hall".

His Royal Highness presented the people of Tristan with a record playing unit for installation in the Hall. The unit works perfectly and is greatly appreciated by the islanders.

Mr. M. A. Willis of the Colonial Office accompanied the Royal Party to Tristan; he is believed to be the first member of the Colonial Office to visit the island.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The main island, which is about 2,000 miles west of Cape Town and 1,500 miles south-south-west of St. Helena, is a volcanic cone 6,760 feet high with a crater lake at the summit and numerous subsidiary craters, set on a roughly rectangular plinth which is bounded by precipices of one to two thousand feet in height. Below these precipices are a number of plateaus on the largest of which, on the north-west of the island, is situated the Settlement of Edinburgh (the only permanently inhabited locality in the group). The island is nearly circular in shape with an area of 40 square miles. Below 5,000 feet it is thickly covered with vegetation, the eastern half being densely wooded. Permanent springs provide the settlement with abundant water.

The uninhabited islands of the group are Inaccessible and Nightingale, about 20 miles west-south-west and south-south-west respectively of Tristan, and Gough Island, 230 miles south-south-east. Inaccessible is rather like Tristan in appearance, with precipices rising from small coastal plateaus in the north and elsewhere from very narrow beaches; it is three miles by one and a half miles in extent. Nightingale is only one mile by three-quarters of a mile in extent; it is covered by dense tussock grass and there are a few patches of woodland round the two peaks, the taller of which rises to 1,200 feet. Adjoining Nightingale are two small islets to the north, Middle and Stoltenhoff. Gough Island has an area of 35 square miles and is well wooded and watered.

All the islands are surrounded by extensive beds of kelp which have some effect in moderating the swell. In the absence of any sheltered inlets or anchorages, landing is wholly dependent on there being sufficient lee.

The climate is temperate and typically oceanic, with a well distributed rainfall, rather high humidity, tendency to strong winds and to rapid changes of weather and temperature.

Regular weather observations were first made by the Norwegian Scientific Expedition in 1938. In 1942 a meteorological station was established by the Royal Navy; it was taken over by the South African Government after the war. The maximum temperature recorded since 1942 is 78·1 degrees Fahrenheit and the minimum 37·4 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall averages about 66 inches a year.

Between June and October the upper part of the Peak is often snow covered, and sleety snow and hail are occasionally experienced to sea level. Thunderstorms are rare, but violent gales occur three to four times a year.

HISTORY AND ADMINISTRATION

The islands were discovered by a Portuguese fleet under the command of Admiral Tristao da Cunha in March, 1506, and first sighted by a British vessel, *The Globe*, in 1610. The first recorded landing was by a party from the Dutch ship *Heemstede* on 7th February, 1643.

In 1655 an expedition was sent by Van Riebeeck, Governor of the Cape, to make a thorough exploration of the potentialities of the islands, but reported unfavourably, as did a Dutch East India Company survey in 1696. The East India Company had also planned an expedition in 1684, which came to nothing, and it was not until 1760 that the English captain Nightingale is presumed to have landed at the island which now bears his name. In 1790 a party of American sealers spent seven months ashore and traces of their encampment were found by a French expedition of 1793, which made the first favourable report on the islands.

On 27th December, 1810, three Americans settled on Tristan, which since then has never been without inhabitants, though by 1812 their number was for a time reduced to one. These settlers, after a short-lived show of independence, had sought British protection, but it was not till Napoleon's exile to St. Helena that on 14th August, 1816, H.M.S. *Falmouth* landed a small British garrison and laid formal claim to the islands. The garrison was withdrawn in 1817, and the flag hauled down, but three of them headed by Corporal William Glass of Kelso, Scotland, his wife and two children, elected to remain and founded the present colony.

Its status remained somewhat uncertain until 1876, when an Order in Council, declaring Tristan da Cunha and its subsidiary islands to be under the British Crown and making some provision as to judicial supervision by visiting naval vessels, was drafted and acted upon,

though the Order was never formally completed. By this time the population had increased to 85; new settlers included English, Dutch, American and St. Helenian elements (to which a few years later were added strong Italian and Irish strains).

The years from 1817 to 1876 had been prosperous, frequent contact with the outside world being maintained through the visits of whalers, East Indiamen and men-o'-war. Outstanding events of the period had been the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh (after whom the Settlement was named) in 1867, and the despatch to the island by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel of the first missionary and teacher, the Reverend W. F. Taylor, who stayed from 1851 to 1857. He was not however, replaced until 1881 when the Reverend E. H. Dodgson, brother of Lewis Carroll, was appointed and stayed till 1884, returning again for three more years in 1886 after receiving the news of the Boat Disaster of 1885.

This significant event, which involved the disappearance of 15 men on their way to or from a passing ship, marked the beginning of decline. The loss of most of the able-bodied men was in fact less responsible for this decline than the infestation of the island by rats dating from a shipwreck in 1882, and the extermination of most of the seals and whales. As early as 1888 the replacement of sail by steam had resulted in only five ships being sighted in a full year.

By 1904 the population was down to 71. No mail was received from England between 1906 and 1916. Finally the Reverend J. G. Barrow, who served on the island from 1906 to 1909, was not replaced until 1922. From that date a missionary teacher has been maintained on the island with only short breaks. But the deterioration resulting from nearly half a century's isolation and dependence on charity, marked by illiteracy and pauperisation and accentuated by increasing population with no parallel increase of resources, is still far from being overcome.

In 1932 the Reverend A. G. Partridge, who was on his second tour of service, was officially recognised as Honorary Commissioner and Magistrate (a step taken because a Brazilian scientific expedition, which never materialised, was due to visit the islands). In this capacity he appointed a headman and headwoman and set up an Island Council to which leading citizens were nominated. These appointments have since been continued.

By Letters Patent dated 12th January, 1938, the status of Tristan da Cunha including Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough Islands, was finally clarified, when they were made dependencies of St. Helena. It is of interest to note that Tristan belonged to the Diocese of St. Helena from 1859 until 1951 but has now reverted to the Archbishopial Diocese of Cape Town.

In 1937-38 a Norwegian Scientific Expedition visited the islands for four months and the first accurate survey of the main island was completed by Mr. A. B. Crawford, an Englishman attached to the

expedition. In 1942 a unit of the South African Defence Force built a meteorological and wireless station which was manned for the duration of the war by the Royal Navy. After the war it was taken over and maintained by the South African Government.

The opening of this station not only brought to an end the period of the island's isolation but paved the way to freedom from dependence on charity; for it was the Royal Navy chaplain, the Reverend C. P. Lawrence, who recognised the possibilities of a crawfish industry at Tristan. Largely owing to his efforts an agreement for the development of this industry was concluded with a South African company on 9th December, 1948, following an exploratory expedition at the beginning of the year. The agreement led to the appointment of an Administrator, following the enactment of St. Helena Ordinance No. 8 of 1948. The application of certain laws of St. Helena was provided for under Ordinance No. 3 of 1949.

In January, 1949, the Tristan Exploration Company (now the Tristan da Cunha Development Company) began its operations. The S.P.G. Chaplain, the Reverend D. I. Luard, was appointed Acting Administrator and was succeeded by the first substantive Administrator in January, 1950. The present Administrator, Mr. G. F. Harris, took up his duties on 4th April, 1957. The existing semi-official Island Council was incorporated into the new administration on 10th March, 1952, by means of the Tristan da Cunha By-Laws Ordinance. The Ordinance empowers the Administrator to make and enforce by-laws and levy local rates and taxes. In making by-laws the Administrator is required to consult the Island Council, although it is a purely advisory body, and to obtain the approval of the Secretary of State. The Island Council consists of 21 members of whom 15 are elected. It controls the Island Council funds which cover local revenue and expenditure.

FINANCE

There is a Tristan da Cunha Administration Fund for general administration purposes and an Island Council Fund. Following the deletion from the new agreement with the Tristan da Cunha Development Company of all welfare payments, the only source of revenue of the Trust Fund was eliminated. The Secretary of State authorised the closure of the Fund and the reserve balance was paid into the Administration Fund as a contribution towards the cost of the Village Hall.

In 1956 the financial year was altered and now runs from July to June the following year to coincide with the Company's financial year. The Administration Fund showed a surplus of £24,257 for 1956-57 as compared with the surplus of £42,314 for 1955. This fall in the reserves is due mainly to the decline in the sale of Tristan da Cunha postage stamps, a process which was envisaged in the Report for 1954 and 1955.

The Island Council Fund had a surplus of £83 in 1956-57 as compared with £126 in 1955. Revenue collected locally in 1956-57 amounted to £100 comprising a local rate, fees, licences and medical fees from the Development Company and visitors. A grant of £1,160 was made from the Administration for welfare, education and the upkeep of the Station.

POPULATION

There were 282 people on the island on 31st December, 1957, compared with 283 in 1956. There were six births and three deaths among the islanders in 1957 and three births and three deaths in 1956. There were also four births among non-islanders in 1957 and three births (including twins) in 1956. Six marriages took place among the islanders in 1957 and only one in 1956.

The population at 31st December, 1956 and 1957 was as follows:

	<i>Islanders</i>			<i>Non-Islanders</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1956.	123	125	248	35
1957.	120	129	249	33

In addition two islanders spent 1957 on Gough Island at the South African Government's Meteorological Station, which had a non-island staff of four in 1956 and six in 1957.

The age-sex distribution of the islanders is of interest:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Over 18 years . . .	87*	78
6-18 years . . .	29	32
Under 6 years . . .	6	19

* Includes 2 on Gough.

Unless there is a change in the present trend for islanders to give birth to such a high proportion of female children, there will be a considerable preponderance of females of marriageable age after the nineteen seventies.

HEALTH

The alterations to the hospital started in 1956 were completed in 1957. It now has two wards and four beds, a kitchen and a larger operating theatre and dispensary. This, together with a new X-ray machine, provided under Colonial Development and Welfare funds, has given the island a hospital adequate to meet all normal demands. No major operations were performed during 1957 and there were only 10 admissions.

The general health of the islanders has been good apart from an influenza epidemic during September and October, 1956, and seasonal colds which were heaviest in March, 1957. Cases of ascariasis are common, but with the provision of Colonial Development and Welfare funds for a piped water supply to all houses and a water-borne sewerage scheme such cases should be eliminated.

EDUCATION

There were 59 children attending the school on the last day of the school year in 1957. The school is divided into three classes: Seniors, 23; Juniors, 21; and Infants, 15. Children are admitted to school at the age of five and leave on their fifteenth birthday. The island children maintained their usual high standard of attendance as the average attendance figure of 98 per cent shows.

Sea Scouts and cubs and the Girl Guide and Brownie Troops have continued their activities throughout the two years under review and are rapidly attaining a high standard of efficiency.

LAW AND ORDER

The Administrator is the Magistrate. One criminal case was heard during 1956 on a minor charge of assault. The accused was cautioned and discharged. There were no criminal or civil cases during 1957.

In order to regulate and control the importation and supply of liquor to islanders and others the Tristan da Cunha Liquor Ordinance No. 5 of 1956 was promulgated by the Governor of St. Helena and published on the island during September, 1956.

FISHING INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPMENT

As a result of a plea made by the Board of Directors of the Tristan da Cunha Development Company for financial aid or relief, discussions were held in Cape Town in February, 1956, to reconsider the concession agreement granted to the Company. A new and simplified agreement was drawn up to operate for a period of three years, in which the Company gained financial relief totalling £5,100 a year by the elimination of certain welfare and royalty payments. In addition a shipping subsidy of £3,000 a year would be paid by the Administration to the Company in return for which the Company agreed to carry, free of charge, 160 tons of cargo annually for the Administration and the Island Store. It was also agreed that the Administration would relieve the Company of the running of the Island Store or Canteen.

The fishing vessels *Tristania* and *Frances Repetto* were out early in the 1956 crawfish season and both were operating by the middle of September. Twenty islanders were taken on the *Frances Repetto* and three on the *Tristania*, one of whom was a deck hand. This source of employment ceased in 1957 as once again it was decided to insist that any islander taken on the fishing vessels for the season should sign ordinary ships articles. Although sufficient islanders came forward, they would not sign the articles, and other arrangements for manning the vessels had to be taken in Cape Town.

During 1957 the Company installed a small freezing plant on the island. This should assist the shore-based fishing by islanders.

IMPORTS AND SUPPLIES

During 1956 normal supplies for the island were carried by the *Tristania* on 20th February and 10th September. For economic reasons the Development Company has been compelled to discontinue the special "cargo trip" in May each year at the end of the fishing season. This has complicated the task of keeping the Island Store supplied throughout the year, particularly with perishable goods such as flour for which there is a limited amount of storage space.

The increased use of paraffin stoves on Tristan has presented the island with a fuel problem as it becomes yearly more and more difficult to maintain supplies. In 1957 the R.R.S. *John Biscoe*, en route to the United Kingdom from the Falkland Islands, sold various commodities which were running short in the Island Store, and use had to be made of any ship coming from Cape Town to bring fuel.

AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The most important event in the field of Agriculture was the passing in 1957, by the Island Council, of the Control of Livestock, Forestry and Agriculture By-Law. This by-law provides for the registration of stock, crops and fruit. It also contains provisions for the use to which land can be put, control of pastures, dipping of sheep, control of obnoxious weeds, control of trees and all other matters connected with agriculture.

The policy of fencing the pastures and the importation of a Hereford bull, a Cheviot ram and a boar are now showing results. The first crop of lambs have exceeded expectations as to fleece, mutton and growth. The young stock from the Hereford bull have proved themselves good foragers and have wintered better than some of the local stock.

Nearly all of the potato crop suffered from attacks of aphids but spraying with insecticides soon checked the attacks and held at bay all subsequent attacks. In spite of this the 1956 crop was a bumper one. The yield in 1957, due to unfavourable weather including severe winds, only amounted to about 75 per cent of the 1956 crop. Even so 3.7 tons were exported to South Georgia in the R.R.S. *John Biscoe*.

It has now become almost certain that, as far as forestry is concerned, the only practical place on Tristan to grow trees is the Sandy Point area. Since this area should prove adequate for all foreseeable needs, efforts have been concentrated there. Meanwhile experiments have continued at the Settlement but without the same success.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were six inward sea mails and ten outward in 1956, and seven inward and seven outward in 1957.

In March, 1957, arrangements were completed for the commencement of a radio air/letter service from and to Tristan. Under this

arrangement letters of up to 50 words may be sent twice a month at a cost of a penny per word to relations abroad. The correspondence is sent and received on Tristan by radio and by air mail from and to Cape Town. This service has proved an excellent method for personnel to keep in touch with relatives during the three winter months when there is no sea mail.

WILD LIFE

The Wild Life Protection Ordinance, which was passed in 1950, aims to conserve all known species of wild life. Infringements of the Ordinance are punishable by heavy fines. Right whales, sea elephants and fur seals are to be found in the waters around Tristan. The bird life of the island, which is of considerable interest and includes the Giant-billed Bunting, the Lesser Noddy, the Frigate Bird and the Southern Black-Backed Gull, was investigated by the first Administrator.

Certain species of wild life on the other islands in the Tristan group are afforded complete protection.

APPENDIX I

Statement of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes in progress or initiated during the two years ended 31st December, 1957.

<i>Scheme No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount of Grant</i>	<i>Expenditure to 31st Dec., 1957</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
		£	£	
D489A D875	Housing Improvement of Water Supplies	40,000 3,500	36,026 3,717	Excess covered by sale of salvaged lead piping.
D1095&A &B	Agricultural Development	41,700	42,078	Completed. Excess covered by local contribution to Rat Campaign expenses.
D1469&A &B&C	Employment of Agricultural Officer	12,080	8,970	
D2016	Youth Employment	15,000	10,784	Completed.
D2037&A	Construction of Civil Hospital, etc.	33,800	33,406	Completed.
D2100	Poor House	5,450	5,411	Completed.
D2401&A	Mental Hospital Staff	1,196	798	
D2455	Agricultural Development	82,000	28,100	
D2504	Rebuilding of "Canister"	10,000	218	
D2562	Flax Industry	400	348	Completed.
D2581	Purchase of Lorries	3,000	1,508	
D2611	Extension and Furnishing of Nurses' Home	2,000	1,801	Completed.
D2667	Teacher-Training Scholarships	4,000	—	Centrally administered.
D2668	Provision of School Buildings, etc.	32,730	16,416	
D2701	Reorganisation of Secondary School	1,963	62	
D2756	Improvement to Principal Water Supplies	3,600	—	
D2757&A	Provision of an Iron Lung	1,170	1,163	
D2920	Interest on Coffee Loan	1,200	—	
D2921	Training of Nursing Sister	250	—	
D2973	Housing	10,000	3,237	
D3053	Provision of Recreation Centres	3,600	1,710	
D3267	Dental Equipment	150	—	
D3289	Eradication of Ascariasis	300	—	
R846	<i>Research</i> Employment of an Entomologist	8,300	1,799	

APPENDIX II

Fifty-six years' statistics of population, births, deaths, marriages, divorces and judicial separations

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population at 31 Dec.</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Divorces</i>	<i>Judicial Separations</i>
1902	5,009	165	235	26	—	—
1903	9,850 (includes 4,655 P.O.W.)	146	76	32	—	—
1904	3,458 (includes 424 garrison)	122	52	29	—	—
1905	3,781 (includes 269 garrison)	136	56	18	—	—
1906	3,544	118	46	11	—	—
1907	3,485	134	36	17	—	—
1908	3,517	84	37	19	—	—
1909	3,553	96	27	17	—	—
1910	3,441	87	40	22	—	—
1911	3,482	95	39	20	1	—
1912	3,519	104	44	26	1	1
1913	3,514	101	51	22	—	—
1914	3,563	84	55	22	1	—
1915	3,594	87	53	26	—	—
1916	3,604	108	51	24	—	—
1917	3,634	96	50	33	—	—
1918	3,654	112	36	37	1	—
1919	3,648	125	29	27	1	—
1920	3,718	85	33	17	4	—
1921	3,670	93	24	20	—	—
1922	3,658	97	37	20	—	—
1923	3,654	114	28	20	1	—
1924	3,703	106	38	21	—	—
1925	3,747	111	44	29	—	—
1926	3,747	111	67	41	—	—
1927	3,747	99	63	36	1	1
1928	3,995	123	69	31	2	—
1929	3,747	121	40	34	3	—
1930	3,747	120	40	30	3	—
1931	3,995	126	59	28	—	—
1932	4,114	152	58	32	1	—
1933	4,170	116	68	31	1	—
1934	4,224	101	47	26	—	—
1935	4,318	150	45	40	—	—
1936	4,341	134	66	23	—	—
1937	4,415	132	32	42	—	—
1938	4,474	168	61	21	—	—
1939	4,622	123	49	24	2	1
1940	4,710	158	47	30	2	—
1941	4,702	157	45	40	3	—
1942	4,860	151	54	40	3	—
1943	4,992	196	35	43	1	1
1944	4,992	155	36	31	1	1
1945	4,942	193	65	38	2	1
1946	4,897	139	53	23	1	—
1947	4,969	165	31	25	3	—
1948	4,857	157	39	26	3	—
1949	4,664	149	56	36	4	—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Marriages</i>	<i>Divorces</i>	<i>Judicial Separations</i>
1950	4,695	136	50	21	1	—
1951	4,748	134	48	24	2	—
1952	4,828	149	40	32	1	—
1953	4,895	140	36	31	3	—
1954	4,878	121	40	20	2	—
1955	4,877	140	53	20	2	—
1956	4,662	127	43	26	—	—
1957	4,682	120	56	23	—	—

APPENDIX III

CUSTOMS TARIFF

Import Duties

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Preferential</i>	<i>General</i>
Clothing:			
(i) Ready-to-wear outer clothing, except jerseys, cardigans and other knitted garments made from			
(a) Wool or mixture of wool and cotton	<i>ad valorem</i>	free	2½ per cent
(b) Cotton	"	10 per cent	12 " "
(c) Any other material	"	30 " "	35 " "
(d) Jerseys, cardigans, pull-overs and other knitted outer garments	"	10 " "	12½ " "
(ii) Ready-to-wear underclothing—			
(a) Machine-made or woven in wool, cotton or a mixture of both	"	free	12½ " "
(b) Hand-knitted in wool, cotton or mixture of both	"	10 per cent	12½ " "
(c) Any other material	"	30 " "	35 " "
(iii) Footwear—			
(a) Heavy outdoor boots and shoes and all children's shoes	"	free	2½ " "
(b) Others	"	10 per cent	12½ " "
(iv) Haberdashery and millinery	"	15 " "	20 " "
(v) Hosiery made from—			
(a) Cotton, wool and mixtures	"	free	2½ " "
(b) Silk and artificial silk	"	30 per cent	35 " "
Jewellery	"	30 " "	35 " "
Linen, Manufactured	"	20 " "	25 " "
Silk and artificial silk	"	30 " "	35 " "
Perfumery—			
(a) Toilet preparations and perfumed spirits	"	30 " "	35 " "
(b) Dentifrices	"	free	5 " "
Soap—			
(a) Common	per 100 lb.	2s. 1d.	2s. 6d.
(b) Toilet	<i>ad valorem</i>	15 per cent	20 per cent
Provisions—			
Butter and Cheese	per 100 lb.	4s. 2d.	5s. 0d.
Canned Meat	"	6s. 3d.	7s. 6d.
Canned Fish	<i>ad valorem</i>	15 per cent	20 per cent
Canned Fruit	per 100 lb.	8s. 4d.	10s. 0d.
Jams	"	6s. 3d.	9s. 4d.
Provisions not enumerated elsewhere	<i>ad valorem</i>	10 per cent	12½ per cent
Firearms—			
(a) Pistols and revolvers	each	15s. 0d.	18s. 0d.
(b) Others	"	£1 10s. 0d.	£1 17s. 6d.
(c) Parts and accessories	<i>ad valorem</i>	22½ per cent	30 per cent
(d) Ammunition	"	30 " "	35 " "

Commodity	Rate	Preferential	General
Metal manufactures—			
Clocks, watches and parts thereof .	„	30 per cent	32½ per cent
Gramophones and phonographs, including loudspeakers and accessories	„	15 „ „	17½ „ „
Wireless instruments, apparatus and accessories	„	15 „ „	20 „ „
Motor Cars	per 100 lb.	12s. 6d.	13s. 9d.
Lorries and tractors	„	10s. 0d.	12s. 6d.
Machinery and parts	ad valorem	free	5 per cent
Musical instruments	„	15 per cent	17½ „ „
Plate and plate ware	„	30 „ „	35 „ „
Spirits—			
(a) Brandy, gin, rum and whisky			
(i) not exceeding the strength of proof	per gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
(ii) Exceeding the strength of proof	per proof gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
(b) Cordials and liqueurs all kinds, including bitters and flavouring extracts containing spirits	per gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
Wine—			
(a) Sparkling	„ „	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 7s. 0d.
(b) Still—in bottles and in wood	„ „	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 6s. 3d.
Tobacco—			
(a) Cigars and Cheroots	per lb.	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 7s. 0d.
(b) Cigarettes	„ „	12s. 0d.	16s. 0d.
(c) Other manufactured tobacco			
(i) Manufactured in the Empire entirely from Empire-grown tobacco	„ „	10s. 0d.	—
(ii) Manufactured in the Empire partly from foreign-grown tobacco	„ „	12s. 0d.	—
Fuel Oils—			
Motor spirit	per gallon	4d.	6d.
Illuminating	„ „	2d.	2½d.

Export Duties (on products of New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*))

Hemp: When the London market price does not exceed £70 per ton—No tax.

London Market price per ton	Rate of tax	Tax payable per ton
Over £70 but not exceeding £80	7 per cent	£ 4 18 0
„ £80 „ „ „ £90	8 „ „	6 8 0
„ £90 „ „ „ £100	9 „ „	8 2 0
„ £100 „ „ „ £110	10 „ „	10 0 0
„ £110 „ „ „ £120	11 „ „	12 2 0

Similarly a 1 per cent increase in tax for every £10 increase in the market price per ton.

There is an abatement of 16s. of this tax for every £1 by which the London market price falls short of £76.

Tow: Tax to be at the rate of ⅓ of the tax on hemp.

Stripper Tow and Teased Tow: No tax.

Phormium tenax suckers: Per 1,000 suckers exported—12s. 6d.

APPENDIX IV

Incidence of Income Tax on Individuals

Rate 9d. in the £ with abatement on one-third if maintaining a wife.

<i>Chargeable Income</i>	<i>Incidence of tax</i>			<i>Abated tax</i>		
£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
301 . . .			9			6
310 . . .		7	6		5	0
325 . . .		18	9		12	6
350 . . .	1	17	6	1	5	0
400 . . .	3	15	0	2	10	0
500 . . .	7	10	0	5	0	0
1,000 . . .	26	5	0	17	10	0
10,000 . . .	363	15	0	242	10	0

(Note: In assessing chargeable income a deduction of £300 is allowed to residents and British subjects).

APPENDIX V

Table 1. Cases reported to and dealt with by the Police in 1956-57

Offences	Total reported		Taken in Court			
			Total		Convicted	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
<i>Against lawful authority</i>						
Against public order	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perjury	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>						
Rape and indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural offences	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	2	1	2	1	2	1
<i>Against the person</i>						
Murder and manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder and suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding, etc.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Assaults	7	5	7	5	7	5
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>						
Thefts and other stealings	4	11	4	11	4	11
Robbery and extortion	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	—	—	—	—	—	—
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	—	2	—	2	—	2
Receiving stolen property	1	—	1	—	1	—
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praedial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Local Laws</i>						
Against Traffic Ordinance	2	2	2	2	2	2
Against Township Ordinance	7	8	7	8	7	8
Against Liquor Ordinance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	9	—	9	—	9	—
	33	30	33	30	33	30

Table 2. Persons dealt with by the Courts in 1956

Offences	Total arrested or sum- moned to court	Convicted										
		Total	Imprison- ment			Fine			First offenders Act or warning			
	(1)	(2)	*	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J
<i>Against lawful authority</i>												
Against public order	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perjury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>												
Rape and indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>												
Murder and manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder and suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wound- ing, etc.	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Assaults	7	7	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>												
Thefts and other stealings	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Robbery and extortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Receiving stolen property	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praedial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Local Laws</i>												
Against Traffic Ordinance	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Against Township Ordin- ance	7	7	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Against Liquor Ordinance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	9	9	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	2	1	—
Totals	33	33	5	—	—	—	16	7	—	2	2	1

* M = Male adults F = Female adults J = Juveniles.

Table 4. Persons dealt with by the Courts in 1957

Offences	Total arrested or sum- moned to court	Convicted										
		Total	Imprison- ment			Fine			First offenders Act or warning			
			(3)			(4)			(5)			
	(1)	(2)	*	M	F	J	M	F	J	M	F	J
<i>Against lawful authority</i>												
Against public order	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perjury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Escape and rescue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against public morality</i>												
Rape and indecent assault	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against the person</i>												
Murder and manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder and suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wound- ing, etc.	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assaults	5	5	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against property</i>												
Thefts and other stealings	11	11	2	—	—	—	1	—	8	—	—	—
Robbery and extortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burglary, house and store breaking	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
False pretences, cheating, fraud, etc.	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Receiving stolen property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praedial larceny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Against Local Laws</i>												
Against Traffic Ordinance	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Against Township Ordin- ance	8	8	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	3	—	—
Against Liquor Ordinance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gambling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	30	30	5	—	—	—	7	3	8	5	2	—

* M = Male adults F = Female adults J = Juveniles.

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